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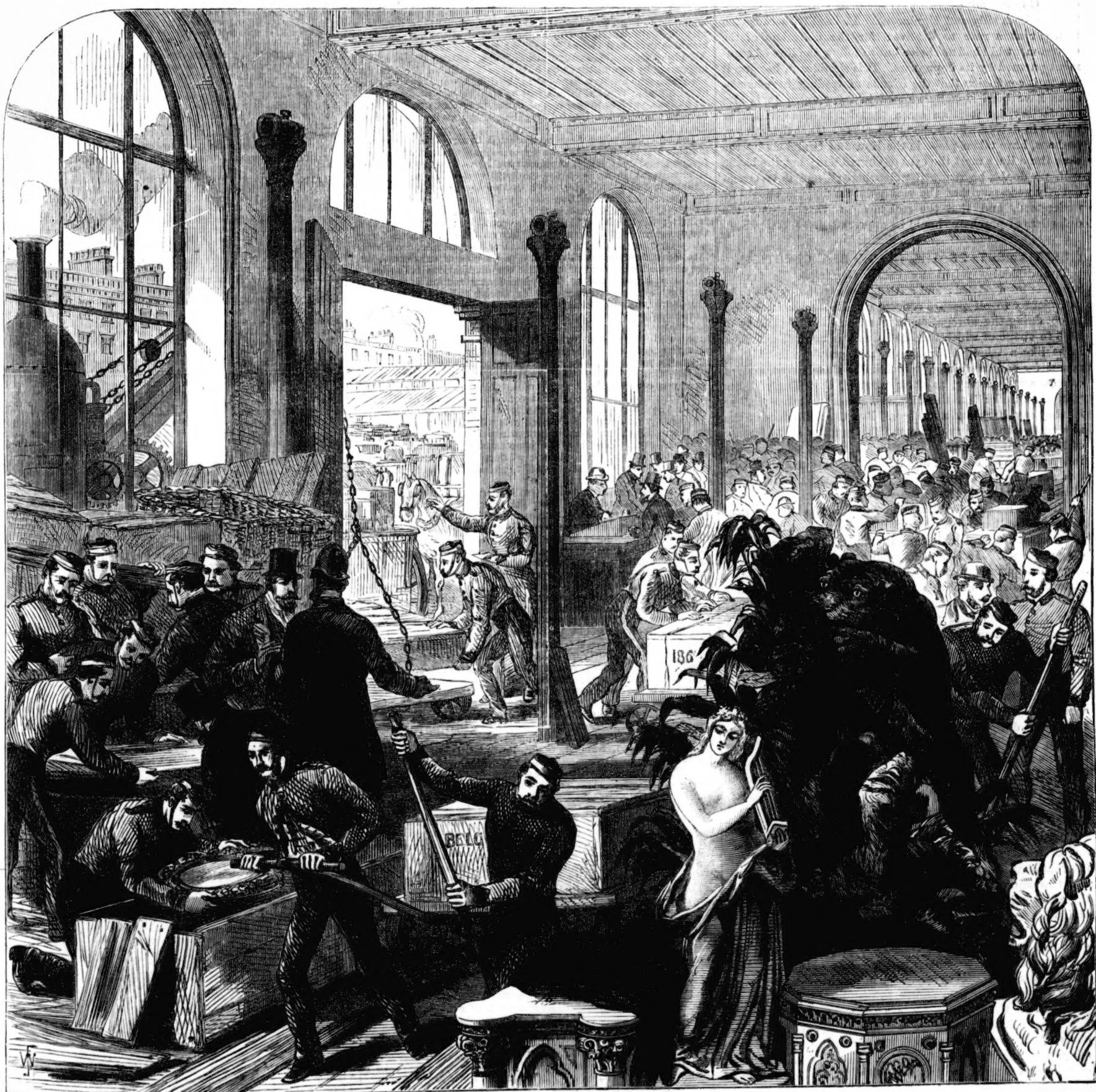
PRICE 3D.

"A PURCHASE SQUABBLE."

LORD EUSTACE CECIL, on Monday night, designated the debate on the Army Regulation Bill, a "mere purchase squabble." He is quite right. The debate, so far as it has gone at the time we write, has been little more than a squabble about purchase. But who has made it so? Decidedly, the defenders of purchase themselves; and for the very sufficient reason, that purchase is the one thing that occupies their thoughts, the only matter about which

they are really anxious. Lord Elcho, Sir John Pakington, Lord Eustace Cecil, and others, affected a desire and professed a determination to lift the debate out of the purchase rut; but they all, with one accord, slid back into the old groove. Out of the fulness of the heart the mouth speaketh. The hearts of the military members of the House of Commons and their Conservative friends (for it is notable, though natural, that nearly every defender of purchase spoke from the Opposition benches) are set upon preserving the system

by which rich officers have thriven and risen, at the expense of their poorer brethren-in-arms and of the public service; and hence why their whole talk is of purchase; hence why the debate has been, so far as they are concerned, a mere "purchase squabble." All the denunciations of "wasteful expenditure of public money," all the talk about the "efficient organisation of the Army," are, from the quarters whence they come, simple "buncomb." Had Mr. Cardwell not proposed to spend money in abolish-



THE APPROACHING INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION: RECEIVING GOODS AT SOUTH KENSINGTON.



THE GOLD IN 1870.—Above fifty returns from various parts of England supplied to the Registrar-General by Mr. Glaisher, secretary of the Meteorological Society, show that the two coldest days in the year 1870 were Christmas Day and the last day of the year, and that Christmas Day was the coldest of the two in the midland districts generally, but the last day of the year in various southern districts and in Yorkshire. A table of minimum temperature on Dec. 23, 24, 25, and 31, 1870, shows that at Truro and Sidmouth the thermometer did not fall below 21 deg. and 19 deg. respectively; at Osborne, not below 17 deg.; at Eastbourne, Portsmouth, Bournemouth, and Barnstaple, not below 13 deg.; but at Taunton it marked 8 deg. on Dec. 23, and 1 deg. on the 31st; at Stratfield Terego, Hants., 4 deg. on both days; at Weybridge Heath, 8 deg. and 13 deg., respectively; and at West Hartport, near Bristol, 8 deg. on the 24th, 13 deg. on the 25th, 5 deg. on the 31st. The Bath returns are 13 deg. on the 24th, 12 deg. on the 25th, 10 deg. on the 31st. The London returns show 9 deg. at Greenwich, Oldbury, 10 deg. on the 25th, and 15 deg. on the 31st; at Marylebone, 14 deg. and 18 deg. respectively, and at Camden Town almost exactly the same. Passing to the midland districts, we find the lowest at Oxford, 9 deg. on the 24th; Gloucester, 7 deg. on the 24th and 6 deg. on the 31st; at Royston, 8 deg. and 10 deg. respectively; at Cardington, Bedford, 10 deg. and 8 deg.; at Leamington, 8 deg. and 13 deg.; at Lampeter, Cardiganshire, 14 deg. and 9 deg.; at Leicester, 7 deg. and 15 deg.; at Derby, 9 deg. and 11 deg.; at Nottingham, 8 deg. and 17 deg.; at Somerleyton, Suffolk, 5 deg. and 25 deg.; at Wisbech, 9 deg. and 18 deg.; at Holkham, 4 deg. and 7 deg.; at Norwich, 5 deg. and 19 deg. At Llandudno, 19 deg., on the 23rd, the lowest; at Sheffield, 13 deg., on the 24th; at Halifax, 10 deg., on the 31st; at Hull, 7 deg., on the 31st; at Leeds, 12 deg., on the 25th; at Olney, 12 deg., on the 31st; at Hawkes, near Whitby, 19 deg. on the 25th, and 13 deg. on the 31st; at 23 deg. on the 25th, and 9 deg. on the 31st. The Liverpool return, 12 deg. on the 24th, 13 deg. on the 25th, 13 deg. on the 31st; near Manchester, 12 deg. on the 24th, 13 deg. on the 25th, 13 deg. on the 31st; Allenheads, Durham, 7 deg. on the 23rd, 10 deg. on the 24th, 14 deg. on the 25th, and 15 deg. on the 31st. At Stonehurst, Lancashire, the thermometer did not go below 15 deg.; at Carlisle not below 17 deg.; at Bywell, Northumberland, not below 10 deg.; at North Shields not below 13 deg. The return for the four days is for forty-nine places in England, twenty-four of them show a temperature below 10 deg.

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

The insurgent National Guards in Paris still refuse to give up the cannons they hold on Montmartre. There are said to be dissensions, however, among the men, some being in favour of giving up the guns, and others violently opposing the surrender. General Valentin has been appointed Prefect of Police. General Valentin took an active part at the siege of Paris, being formerly Colonel of the gendarmerie of Paris. This is taken as indicative that measures of repression are to be adopted. General d'Aurelle de Paladines has instructed the commandants of the National Guard to collect the men under their command, and order them to do special duties. Those who do not muster will be fined six francs; and it is expected that this penalty will greatly reduce the number of the recalcitrants. General Vinoy, by virtue of the rights conferred upon him by the state of the siege, has decreed that the following six journals shall be suspended:—*The Vengeur, Mot d'Ordre, Cri du Peuple, Caricature, Pere Duchesne, and Bouche de Fer*. The decree adds that the publication of all new journals treating either on politics or social economy is forbidden until the state of siege has been raised.

A council of war, after two hours' deliberation, has given the following judgments in relation to the affair of Oct. 21:—Valles has been condemned to six months' imprisonment; Blanqui, Florens, Levaillant, and Cyrille to the penalty of death; Goupil to two years' imprisonment. Regière and Sudes have been acquitted.

Versailles was evacuated by the German troops on Sunday. A French regiment left Paris the same day to take possession of the town.

A review of 40,000 German troops was held at Rouen on Sunday afternoon, at which Prince Frederick Charles, with several Generals, presided. The Emperor was not well enough to attend. Very few French persons were present, and the inhabitants everywhere hoisted black flags. The Prussian General commanding has announced that all inhabitants hoisting a black flag for the future will have sixty men quartered upon them.

A convention has been entered into between the French and German authorities in reference to the working of the railways, the postal and telegraph services, and the alimentation of the German army of occupation.

According to the new military law in France all Frenchmen will be bound to serve for three years in the regular army, and afterwards in the reserve.

Eighteen members of the French Assembly have sent a circular to their constituents, stating that they have only provisionally sanctioned the transfer of that body to Versailles, and that they will defend the rights of the capital.

Marshal McMahon and his family have arrived in Paris. Hostility to the Germans is said to be increasing in Paris, and the anti-German League comprises all classes among its members.

At Nancy an order has been issued directing the expulsion of all French soldiers refusing to salute German officers.

A dreadful accident occurred at Puteaux, on the Versailles Railway, on Friday week. A train filled with Prussian wounded soldiers was run into by a goods-train, and several of the unfortunate men were killed, and many others terribly mangled. It appears that the line was under Prussian management.

The *Echo du Nord* of Lille calls the attention of the authorities to the danger to the public health resulting from the state of the battle-fields of the Somme, the Pas de Calais, and the Aisne. It says that works should be commenced immediately to ward off the grave inconveniences of the summary inhumations which followed the different battles. If great care is not taken, the rain and the heat will make them a focus of pestilence. It is the administration of the Department of the Nord which should take the initiative, and advance the necessary sums. Wolves have appeared in the neighbourhood of Amiens. It seems that after the battles of Boves and Pont Noyelles and the engagement of Longpré a large number of the dead were thrown into the marshes and dykes which abound there. For two months and more the corpses remained at the bottom of the water; but during the last few days they have risen to the surface, and the marshes are covered with floating bodies, which give them a horrible aspect. Active measures are being taken to inter them, and thus prevent a plague breaking out.

SPAIN.

The King left Madrid on Tuesday to meet the Queen at Alicante, and their Majesties were expected to make their entry into Madrid on Thursday.

The result of the elections is as follows:—Thirty-eight Republicans, of whom nine are elected twice; sixty-two Carlists, of whom six have been elected twice; ten Montpensierists; sixteen Constitutional Centres; six Moderates; eight Independents; and 237 Ministerialists.

ITALY.

A protest, signed by British subjects—some being Catholics and others Protestants—has been sent from Rome. The authors of the protest state that they were subjected to "inconvenience, insult, and danger" while attending the Lenten service in the Church of the Gesù in that city. On attempting to leave, the doors were found to be beset by hundreds of men armed with bludgeons, who prevented their departure. Some soldiers, who afterwards arrived, struck out right and left at unoffending persons, and one woman was wounded. The protest has been forwarded to the British Ambassador at Florence.

SWITZERLAND.

A very serious disturbance took place at Zurich, on the 9th inst. The German population were celebrating the renewal of peace, in the Townhall, when a mob, among whom were some French officers, attacked the hall and burst open the doors. Thereupon a fight ensued, and several persons were wounded, and the military had to interfere to restore order. On the 10th an effort to release the rioters who had been imprisoned was made by the mob, but was frustrated by the military, who fired and wounded several persons; and on the following day another attempt was made to free the prisoners, which was also repulsed by the military, with loss of life to the rioters. All is now quiet, however; and the Federal Council, upon the report of the Governor of the district, has withdrawn the Federal troops who had been sent to suppress the disturbances. The official investigation into the riots will, however, be proceeded with.

GERMANY.

The Emperor of Germany, with the Prince Imperial and Princes Carl and Adalbert, have returned to Germany and been enthusiastically received. The Emperor reached Berlin on Thursday evening.

The Saxon Minister of War, General von Fabrice, has been appointed chief of the civil administration of those French departments which will be superintended by German authorities. The existing governorships are being abolished.

It is now expected that the triumphal entry of the German troops into the Prussian capital will take place on May 1. Great preparations are already being made by the inhabitants to do honour to the victorious soldiers. A large square, about the size of Lincoln's-inn-fields, is to be converted into a ball-room, and a colossal vase in the Lustgarten is to be filled with spiced wine. Special constables are to be sworn in to assist the authorities in preserving order during the festivities.

Prince Adalbert, of the Prussian army, has written a letter in which he expresses his regret that it was impossible to obtain Saigon from the French as one of the terms of the treaty of peace. The Prince adds that for more than ten years he has endeavoured to induce the Prussian Government to obtain a footing in Eastern Asia.

Alsace and Lorraine are to become a separate territory of the

German Empire, under a government appointed by the Emperor. Strasbourg is to be the capital.

A great innovation has been introduced at Berlin. Special constables are henceforth to be sworn in when occasion requires it. To maintain order during the public celebration of the peace 2000 citizens are for the first time to act as "specials."

THE UNITED STATES.

In last Saturday's sitting of the Senate a caucus action for removing Mr. Sumner from the Foreign Relations Committee was sustained by 53 to 9 votes. Mr. Simon Cameron was confirmed chairman of the committee. According to a telegram through Mr. Reuter's agency, the prominent Republican journals regard the ousting of Mr. Sumner as unwise, and as committing Mr. Sumner and his friends to determined opposition to the Administration. Newspaper correspondents having charged Sir Edward Thornton with interfering to obtain the removal of Mr. Sumner, Mr. Secretary Fish has written to say that neither Sir Edward Thornton nor any other of the British Commissioners has ever directly or indirectly, by word or writing, expressed or intimated to him any opinion, wish, apprehension, or objection as to Mr. Sumner or any other person being on any Congressional Committee, or has made any allusion or reference to the composition of any committee. The effect of the charge, he says, being to misrepresent Sir Edward Thornton and his colleagues, and to prejudice the pending negotiations, he has published this contradiction.

The House has passed laws repealing the import duties on salt, coal, tea, and coffee.

CANADA.

The Finance Minister anticipates a trifling surplus in the coming year, and takes off 5 per cent on the duties levied last year, but retains the coal and flour duties.

INDIA.

Sir Richard Temple delivered his financial statement at Calcutta on the 9th inst. In the financial year 1869-70, there was an excess of receipts over ordinary expenditure of £118,668. The estimates for 1870-1 and for 1871-2 each show a surplus; some reductions are proposed in the civil and military expenditure; and there is to be reduction in the income tax. Loans amounting to £2,500,000 are to be raised in England during 1871-2. No loan is to be raised in India.

REMOVAL OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY TO VERSAILLES.

The National Assembly voted, on Friday week, by a majority of 461 to 104, for removal to Versailles. For a previous motion in favour of removing to Paris only 154 votes were given, against 427 on the contrary. The first public sitting at Versailles is expected to be held next Monday. The following report of the debate which preceded the vote is given in a telegram through Mr. Reuter's office:—

Louis Blanc protested against all apparent mistrust of Paris. He spoke of the many virtues of the inhabitants during the siege, and of the right thus acquired to the gratitude of the country. The transfer of the National Assembly to any other place would be fraught with danger, and might induce Paris to elect for itself a special Government. Thus civil war would be added to already existing evils; besides which every attempt to decentralise Paris would excite the jealousies of the other large towns of France, and greatly imperil national unity.

M. Lalou, a young deputy of Savoy, made a speech which was much applauded. He strongly advocated the transfer of the Assembly to Paris, developing the reasons for such a line of action from a political and financial view, and in the interest of the honour and dignity of the country.

M. Thiers said that both he and his colleagues would not have raised such a delicate and serious question without absolute necessity. It was imperative to put an end at once to a divided Government, which trammelled the dispatch of public business. A continuance of the Assembly at Bordeaux was impossible, on account of the great distance from the capital, where the presence of the Ministers was urgently required. The task of maintaining order in Paris could not be entrusted to a Prefect or General, and there was no danger for the Assembly wherever it went. At all events, while the post of chief of the Government was the foremost in the time of danger, he could no less abandon the National Assembly. That was the reason why the Government demanded the removal of the Assembly near to Paris. M. Thiers stated that he did not himself purpose to return immediately to Paris, but to be as near as possible, in order that the public service should not suffer. Fontainebleau, said M. Thiers, was not a desirable position for more than one reason, which it would be inopportune to set forth. M. Thiers implored the Chamber to vote for the transfer of the Assembly to Versailles. He entreated the Chamber to believe him that it was absolutely necessary, and not to force the Government to specify their reasons. Speaking of the situation of Paris, the orator said that the action of a certain part of the population did not originally amount to anything culpable, because it was directed against the Prussians. It had, however, degenerated into a culpable and factious attitude; but the Government hoped to be able to bring back the deluded people and to avoid civil war. "As regards myself and my colleagues," said M. Thiers, "we are all of one mind. If the peace should be disturbed, you may count on our patriotism to repress disturbances with the utmost energy. We shall never fail in this; but let us hope that this extremity, which has been momentarily feared in France, will be finally avoided. If we can avoid the shedding of blood, we shall consider it an honour to have done so." With regard to the mission of the Assembly, M. Thiers said that, although the Assembly bore a sovereign character and might have resolved itself into a Constituent Assembly, it had given proofs of its wisdom to restrict itself to the reorganisation of the country. That must be their task, in the fulfilment of which immense work would have to be gone through. M. Thiers begged the Assembly to avoid all questions that could cause division and excite political passions. He said that the Cabinet worked in perfect agreement, only seeking the welfare of the country and the means of alleviating its misfortunes. M. Thiers appealed to the representatives of the two great parties to act in concord for the work of reorganisation, supplanting them not to calumniate each other, insisting, above all things, upon the imperative necessity of reserving all complicating questions. He said that if the Assembly wanted a permanent Republic, this would entirely depend upon the Assembly itself. The Republic was in its hands. M. Thiers said:—"For my own part, I vow before history that I will never deceive you; that I will never prejudice a question away from you; that I will never act in any way so as to disown or betray your sovereignty."

Before the speech of M. Thiers, M. Millière advocated the transfer to Paris; two deputies of the Right spoke against it. M. Thiers said that the transfer did not prejudice any question. The question of the permanent settlement of the Assembly outside Paris, or otherwise, would be completely reserved.

THE NORTHERN PORTS OF EUROPE.—A very active business is now going on with the northern ports of Europe from Leith, the Tyne, West Hartlepool, Hull, and other of the north-east ports of England. The pressure is so great in the goods trade that though the principal steamship companies have put extra steamers upon the stations they are not able to take away all the freight offering. All sorts of manufacturing goods are being sent off; but from the Tyne freckles goods, chemicals, coals and machinery, and other materials used by the manufacturers, are the most pressed to be got away. Hamburg is very full of shipping at present, and there is a difficulty in getting berths for them to discharge at. The navigation of the lower parts of the Baltic is also opening out. There is a similar active trade to Rotterdam. But, on account of the trade on the Rhine not having been restored, as the men who generally navigate vessels upon that river have not got back from the war, the trade with England is as yet somewhat limited. Trade has also opened briskly with Denmark and Norway with steamers, but few, if any, sailing-ships have arrived from those countries. A considerable trade in the importation of cattle and agricultural produce is likely to be done between Denmark, Hamburg, and the Tyne this spring.

PROPOSED FORTIFICATION OF ROME.

The entire system of military defences about to be submitted to the Italian Chambers is based on the supposition that France may confidently be expected, on the first opportunity, to assail Italy. In this belief the mountain passes towards France are to be fortified, the fortifications of Alessandria and Spezzia to be increased, and, above all, Rome and Civita Vecchia are to be protected with as little loss of time as possible. The immediate outlay for these works is estimated at 151,000,000*fr.*, though more than twice that amount will be required to complete the defences of Italy. Is it, however, advisable to spend some 50,000,000*fr.* in fortifying Rome? To this question the *Nazione* of Florence replies in the following article:—

We should like very much to know in what way the fortifications of Paris have possibly contributed to the safety of France? The only thing visible—at least to common eyes—is that they have greatly contributed to injure Paris and to expose it to cruel trials. Are, then, the fortifications of Rome proposed with the idea of enabling Rome to enjoy, sooner or later, the delights of a bombardment? If the bombardment of a capital—and of such a capital as Rome—were regarded as essential to decide the fate of a war, the thing would be intelligible. But to us, who are profoundly ignorant of military science, it seems that history, and more especially the history of this last war, has taught us that fortresses fall without exception, and that generals who win great battles with vast forces on the battle-field need care very little about the resistance a fortress offers. Accordingly, the common sense of nations, which judges of things by their visible effects, after having seen the injury sustained by Paris and by Strasbourg, has come to the conclusion that cities containing either precious monuments or great wealth would do better to remain open and unprotected, confiding these treasures to international law, which, in modern wars, does not sanction violence against unresisting persons. At least one half of the ruins of Rome—those ruins so much deplored by the student of art, antiquities, and history—may be ascribed precisely to the fact of Rome having been fortified, for which not only the whole city, but many of its monuments, were again and again taken and retaken. Certainly, it must be a great political and military necessity which imposes on our Government the duty of preparing for Rome another storming like that of Toul and the Constable Bourbon. Possibly this necessity exists; possibly Rome is a strategic point of such importance that it is imperative to prepare for the Vatican and the Colosseum the fate of the cathedral and library of Strasbourg. But in our stupidity we are unable to see it, and it would be an act of great condescension if those who do would make it a little clearer. We may, indeed, be told that a capital must not be left exposed to an enemy, for that involves the danger of the Government being compelled to transfer its seat elsewhere. But on this point, too, Paris seems to furnish us with the fitting reply. We have seen that a capital, when at the same time a fortress, cannot perform its proper functions as a capital. We have seen that in such conditions it procures for the country the ineffable satisfaction of two Governments squabbling with and contradicting one another. We have seen that even France, with all its love of the fantastic, has not felt happy at being governed by means of pigeons and balloons. We repeat that there may doubtless be very good reasons for this plan, though for the present we cannot see them. All we see at present is that the fortifications of Rome can produce only two effects (leaving out of sight the millions to be spent—a mere trifle for so opulent a country as Italy)—one, the bombardment and conflagration of the monuments, libraries, and museums; the other, the government of Italy by means of pigeons. This, of course, on the hypothesis that the fortifications are designed for the exigencies of war. But it is quite possible that the Government proposes them solely on the hypothesis of Italy remaining at peace.

FUNERAL OF M. KUSS.

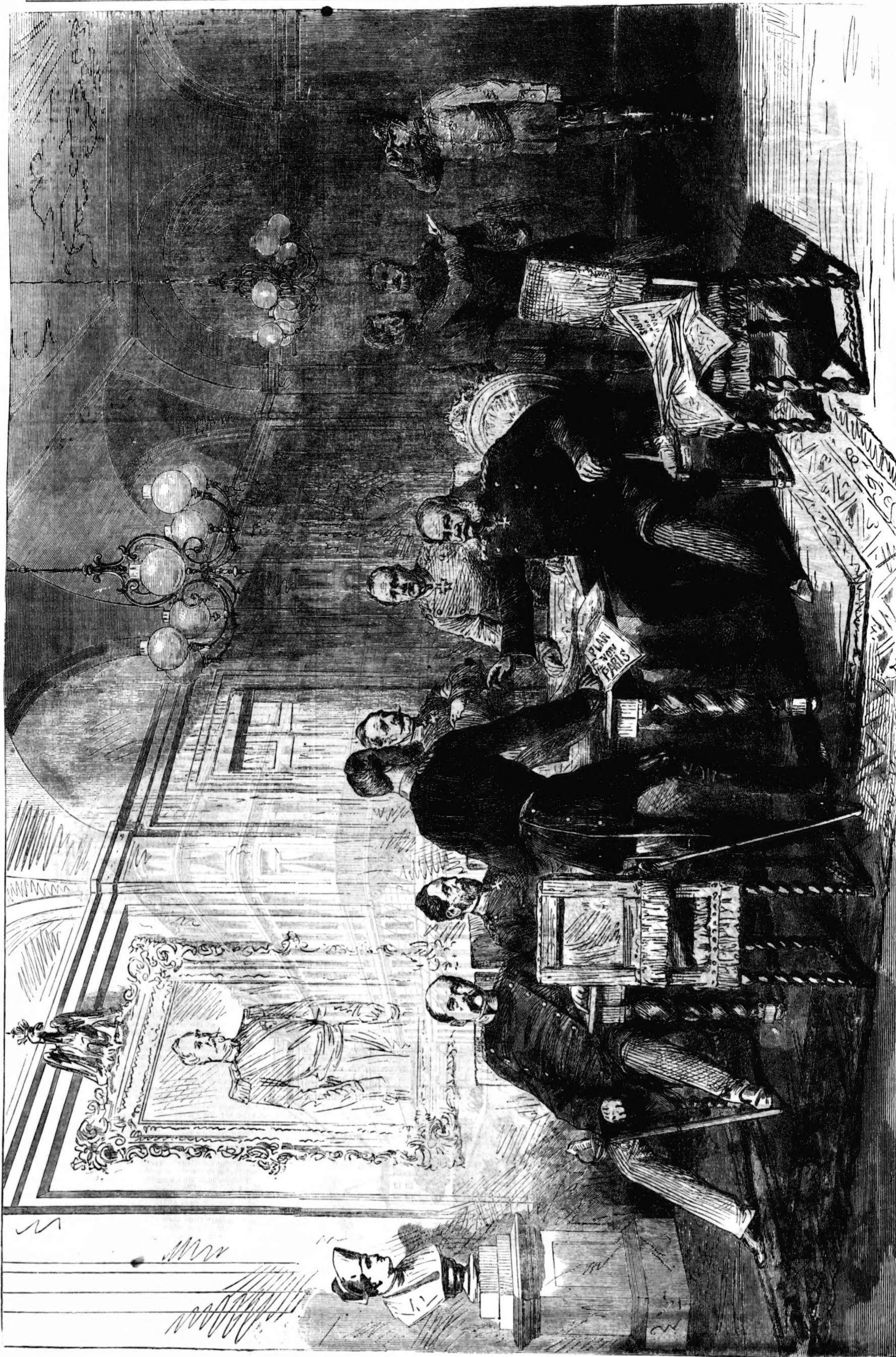
The French National Assembly, though it has only been in existence a few weeks, has already lost several of its members—some by resignation, some by quashing of their elections, and some also, unhappily, by death. Among these last was M. Kuss, Mayor of Strasbourg and Deputy for the Lower Rhine, who died of grief at the severance of his country from France. A funeral ceremony for the deceased gentleman took place at Bordeaux, on the 3rd inst. The deputies from Bas Rhin, the Municipal Council of Bordeaux, a large number of other deputies, and some of the Ministers, amongst whom was M. Jules Simon, followed the hearse to the railway terminus. A military guard was drawn up to receive the procession. Several speeches were delivered. M. Gambetta rendered homage to the deceased in an eloquent address, and praised the devotion and heroism of the city of Strasbourg. M. Gambetta added:—"Force separates us, but only for a time, from Alsace, which is the traditional cradle of French patriotism. Our brothers in that unhappy country have done their duty to the last. May they console themselves with the thought that France will henceforth have no other policy than their deliverance. To obtain this result the Republicans must again swear implacable hatred against all dynasties, to the false Cæsars who bring about all these disasters. Let us forget all divisions and unite ourselves closely to the thought of patriotism, the desire for a patriotic revenge, which will be the protest of right and justice against force and rapacity." The people, most deeply moved, cried, "Long live Alsace!" The Mayor of Bordeaux then expressed a few words of sympathy for their former colleague, and claimed in the name of the city the honour of defraying the expenses of the funeral. The crowd, which manifested deep emotion, then withdrew.

The Paris *Débats* publishes from a private letter some details respecting the funeral of M. Kuss in the city over which he ruled during its siege. When the body arrived at the Strasbourg railway station it was received by nearly the entire population, all wearing some token of mourning. On the day of the interment an immense body of people accompanied the bier, and all the shops, breweries, and cafés were closed. The Prussian authorities wished to send an escort to pay military honours to the deceased, but the offer was declined. They, however, insisted that the funeral service and the hymns should be said and sung in the German language. The choral societies firmly refused to obey this command, which, after much contention, was ultimately abandoned; and the service was performed, not in the Temple Neuf, the walls of which were too much damaged by the bombardment, but in the Church of St. Thomas.

THE MASONIC LODGE OF MOUNT SINAI AT PARIS has resolved to expel all its members who are Prussians by birth, and no longer to admit any Prussian into the lodge.

THE LONDON SCHOOL BOARD.—The "religious difficulty" was again the subject of discussion at the meeting of the London School Board on Wednesday. An addition to Mr. Smith's resolution was moved by Mr. Hutchins, who sought to provide for the special accommodation and instruction of Roman Catholic children. To this an amendment was moved by Mr. McGregor, giving permission to the teacher to read a different version of the Bible, should the parents of any children express such a desire. The amendment was rejected by a majority of 19 to 18; Mr. Hutchins's motion was lost by 35 to 6. Mr. Green then moved that such explanations and instructions as are recognised by the resolution of Mr. Smith shall be given by responsible teachers of the school. This, after some debate, was agreed to.

DEATH OF A ROMAN TRIUMVIR.—The death is announced of Mattia Montecchi, well known as having for many years taken a prominent part in Italian politics. Born at Poggio Mirteto, in the Campagna, and educated for the Bar, he as early as 1844 took part in the Liberal movement in the Romagna. The movement, as is well known, was unsuccessful; and Montecchi, having fallen into the hands of the Papal troops, was condemned to imprisonment for life at Civita Castellana. On the succession of Pius IX. he was included in the amnesty which celebrated the succession of that Pope to St. Peter's chair. On the proclamation of the Roman Republic, after the flight of the Pope to Gaeta, Montecchi was elected a deputy to the Roman Assembly, and was appointed first Minister of Commerce, and subsequently Minister of War. He was afterwards elected one of the *Triumvirs* of Rome, a position he occupied until the French succeeded in taking that city in April, 1849. Driven from his native country, he sought refuge in England, where he resided for nearly ten years. Here he set himself energetically to work, and earned a living by devoting himself to the then newly-discovered art of photography. In 1859 he hastened back to Italy, and took an active part in the rising in the Papal dominions, and became the chief of the staff of General Farini, who was appointed, with the sanction of Cavour, the Dictator of the "Emilia." From 1860 to 1869, with short intervals, he sat in the Italian Parliament, where he exercised considerable personal influence. In 1867-8 Signor Montecchi allowed himself, at the personal instance of some English friends who had been induced to undertake the restoration of the ancient manufactory of glass and mosaic at Murano, to withdraw from politics, and take charge of their interests in the commercial undertaking. With his accustomed energy, having once undertaken the task, he devoted himself to master all the details of the business, which, under his directorship, made very remarkable progress. His death took place suddenly, but it was the result of a long-seated disease.

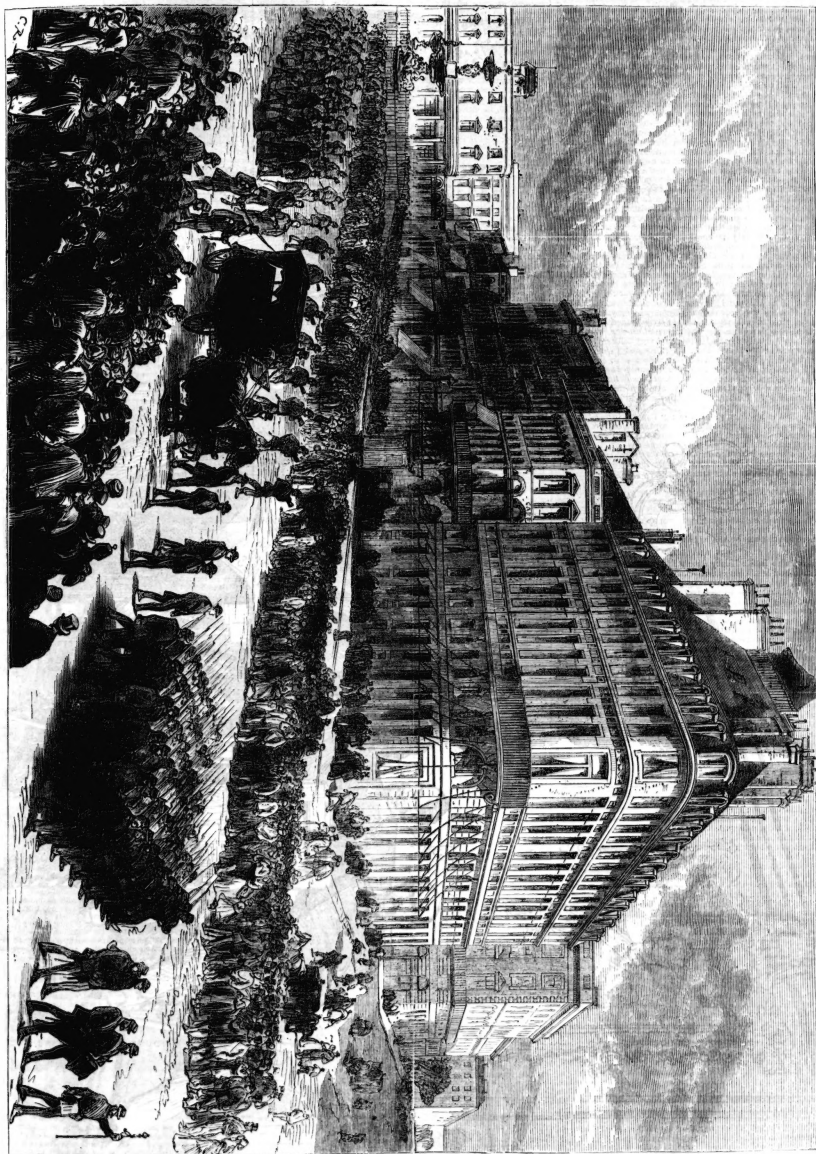


THE LATE WAR: A MILITARY COUNCIL AT THE PREFECTURE, VERSAILLES.—(SEE PAGE 174.)



THE LATE WAR: A MILITARY COUNCIL AT THE PREFECTURE, VERSAILLES. — FROM THE "TIMES."

FUNERAL PROCESSION AT BONDIAUX IN HONOR OF THE LATE M. RICH MAYOR OF STRASBURG.



INNER LIFE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.—NO. 394.

LIEUTENANT-GENERAL SIR HENRY STOKES.

A SPEAKER, to be successful, "must have the power of statement—must have the fact, and know how to tell it. In any knot of men conversing on any subject, the person who knows most about it will have the ear of the company and lead the conversation, no matter what genius and distinction other men there present may have; and in any assembly him who has the facts and can well state them people will listen to, though he is otherwise ignorant, hoarse, and ungraceful, though he stutters and screams." So says Emerson in his chapter on eloquence, to be found in a little book of his intitled "Society and Solitude." The Right Hon. Lieutenant-General Sir Henry Stokes, Controller-in-Chief at the War Office, though he is not ungraceful, and does not stutter or scream, is not an orator, nor can he be called an eloquent speaker. But it was known "that he had the facts," and therefore, when he rose to speak, everybody was anxious to hear what he had to say, and, as we could, as we soon found, "well state" the facts, he held the breathless attention of the House all the while he was speaking. Sir Henry is not a practised speaker, probably never made so long a speech before as he did on the second night of the debate on the Army Regulation Bill, and we suspect that he would rather have led a charge against an enemy than have made that speech. Conscious of his want of practice in public speaking, he had got most of what he had to say written down, not to be read seriatim—the rules of the House do not allow a member to read a speech—but to be used as an aid to memory, which, when an unpractised speaker rises to confront an audience, is apt, however carefully he may have impressed his facts upon it before-hand, to get blurred and quite useless to him. Indeed, this sometimes happens to practised speakers. A member of Parliament not long ago told us that he once came down to the House with a speech so plainly inscribed upon his memory that as he walked to the House he repeated every word of it, and did not doubt that he would be able, as aforesaid, to run it off "slick," as a thread runs off a reel; but, lo! when he rose and turned to his memory for his speech not a line of it was legible, and he had to extemporise a few common-place remarks, and drop into his seat. Sir Henry Stokes, like a thoughtful General, provided for this contingency, and it was well that he was so cautious, for it was easy to see that without the "aid to memory" he might have broken down; with it he was able, with soldier-like plainness and brevity, to state his facts well and clearly to the House; and very telling facts they were—comparable to heavy shot, as it seemed to us, against flimsy outworks. We select a couple. Fact one: "I do not believe," said Sir Henry, "that any officer goes into active service in the field who does not think of the danger which he runs in connection with the price of his commission." Of course not. How can he? He has, perhaps, invested in his commission nearly all the money he possessed; and if he should be killed, all will be lost to his family. Fact 2: "The purchase system is conducted according to a procedure so complex, so extensive in its ramifications, and so varied in its transactions, that I do not hesitate to say that the dealings and transactions of the Stock Exchange, with its bulls and its bears, its scrip and debentures, its time bargains, and so forth, are more intelligible than the rules and regulations which govern the system of purchase in the Army." In short, as he in another part of his speech told us, the Government have found, "in considering every project submitted to them for the reorganisation of the Army, that these vested interests, with all their complications, present themselves at every turn as insuperable obstacles in the way of reform." Sir Henry, as we have said, is no orator; but with such facts—and he had many more of the same kind—he needed no oratorical gifts.

HIS HISTORY.

And now, who is Sir Henry Stokes? A year or two since, few Englishmen had heard his name. In the Army he has long been well known, and also by all persons conversant with military and diplomatic affairs; but to the majority of his countrymen he seemed suddenly to emerge from behind a cloud. We will, then, give our readers a brief history of Sir Henry's career. Sir Henry Stokes is the eldest son of Mr. Sergeant Stokes, who long went the Norfolk Circuit, and in his old days was made a County Court Judge. Sir Henry was born in 1811, and was educated at Charterhouse. He entered the Army in 1828, when he was only seventeen years old. In 1854 he was made Colonel; in 1862, Major-General; and in 1864, Lieutenant-General. In 1849-53 he was Assistant Adjutant-General at the Cape. In the Crimean War he had the command of all the military establishments on the Bosphorus and at Smyrna, and achieved a great reputation there for powers of organisation. For his "distinguished services" in this war he received a pension. In 1859-64 he was Lord High Commissioner of the Ionian Islands; in 1864, Governor of Malta. In 1865 he was made temporary Governor of Jamaica, superseding Governor Eyre, who hanged Gordon. Sir Henry was also President of the Royal Commission to inquire into the disturbances on the island, and did his onerous work well. In 1867, though a Liberal in politics, he was made by the Conservative Government Controller-in-Chief of the War Department, and in 1868 Under-Secretary for War. In 1870 Mr. Gordon Rebow, the member for Colchester, having departed this life, Sir Henry presented himself to the electors; but said electors capriciously preferred a certain Colonel Learmonth, a Tory, and quite unknown to fame. But soon afterwards Admiral Lord John Hay, the member for Ripon, having received orders to hoist his flag, was obliged to resign his seat for that snug borough. Whereupon Sir Henry, by the favour of Earl De Grey and Ripon and the electors, got himself returned. We have joined the electors with the noble Earl because, though his Lordship has influence at Ripon, it cannot now be called a pocket borough; and, further, because Sir Henry's majority was so large that it was clear that he had really found favour with the voters. All honour to them for their sagacity for returning this eminent man to Parliament at this juncture, when his services are specially required. They deserve well of their country.

MR. RYLANDS.

A gentleman spoke in the debate of Thursday se'night whom we have long intended to introduce to our readers. The name of this gentleman is Rylands—Peter Rylands—iron master and wire manufacturer, of Warrington, Lancashire. He first came into Parliament in 1868. For many years Warrington had been represented by Mr. Gilbert Greenall, a Conservative. And a very respectable man was Mr. Greenall. But he was a silent man. He got the seat early in 1847, beating his opponent by 327 to 298. After that, until 1868 Mr. Greenall was not opposed. But in that year, after a stiff contest, he was, to his great disgust, defeated by 184 to 157, and Mr. Rylands was returned. Apart from politics, this change was good. Prior to 1868 Warrington had, properly, no voice in the House of Commons. Now it has a voice, and a good, sturdy, honest voice too. Mr. Rylands is not a polished speaker; nor, indeed, in any way polished; does not at all affect that sort of thing. That he diligently studies the matter of his speeches beforehand there cannot be a doubt; for they are mostly full of facts. And facts, if they are real facts, as Mr. Rylands's are, cannot be got together without much diligent and sagacious research; and especially such facts as those with which Mr. Rylands arms himself, for they do not lie anywhere on the surface, but have to be dug out of bluebooks, a sort of soil which cannot be worked to profit without much persevering labour. But if Mr. Rylands studies the matter, he certainly does not prepare beforehand the language of his speeches, nor does he think beforehand of the manner in which he shall deliver them. We have known in our time House of Commons speakers who used to take lessons in manner and practise attitudes before a glass. Mr. Rylands clearly never did that; nor are there any signs in his language of preparatory polish. In that no indications of the *labor time* are discernible. In truth, what Mr. Rylands does is this. He collects

his facts, thinks out his arguments, and trusts to his natural gift of language and such spontaneous action to enforce his words as feeling shall at the time prompt. And, though his language is not polished, and his manner is not graceful, and albeit his appearance is rather wild, and he speaks with a strong Lancashire burr, he is listened to, and his speeches are effective. In short, as he, too, has the facts, and can well state them, all are anxious to hear what he has to say. Here is a fact which went right to the mark, like a shot from an Armstrong gun, and ought to have silenced at once all the small artillery of the military people who are so pertinaciously defending the vile system of army purchase:—"In 1869 an Act of Parliament was passed, and still remains the law of the land, providing that any officers paying or receiving over-regulation prices should be cashiered, the commission sold, the informer should receive £500 from the proceeds, and persons knowingly abetting should be deemed guilty of a misdemeanour. Every officer, therefore, who had taken part in these transactions was liable to two years' imprisonment; yet the right hon. gentleman proposed that the taxpayers of this country should pay £3,000,000, or as some persons believe, £4,000,000 or £5,000,000, in order to compensate officers who, for their own convenience and interest, had deliberately violated the law." Of all the speeches delivered in this debate, the short speech of Mr. Rylands (except, perhaps, the speech of Mr. Otto Trevelyan) was the most forcible. Indeed, this is the characteristic of Mr. Rylands's speeches. There is no persuasiveness in them. Mr. Rylands possesses not the art of persuasion, which, Lord Brougham tells us, is the special characteristic of lofty oratory; no subtle argumentation, no fierce Ciceronian declamation; but strong facts, pressed home in strong, vigorous, vernacular language.

SIR JOHN PAKINGTON.

The adjourned debate on Monday was opened by Sir John Pakington. His speech was long and characteristically superficial, tedious, and wearisome; but, at the same time, very pretentious. Sir John always speaks as one having authority; and, seeing that he has held many offices—he has been Secretary of the Colonies, First Lord of the Admiralty, and Secretary of State for War—he ought to be able to speak with authority. But, alas! of authority—meaning weight, influence—he has but little in the House of Commons; and yet with what an air of authority he speaks; how slow is his delivery, how serious and solemn is his tone! What magisterial dignity he puts on when he rebukes an opponent; and with what parade and ceremony he delivers his platitudes! A great artist in this way is Sir John; and we have no doubt that, down in Worcestershire, he is thought to be a remarkable speaker. But in the House of Commons—especially in this House, which is, on the whole, more practical and business-like than any of its predecessors—all this has no effect. Few people listen, save with restless attention, to what he says; and—as to Memory, she absolutely refuses to retain it. "Tis

Like the snow-fall in the river,
A moment white—then melts for ever.

MR. GEORGE OTTO TREVELYAN.

When Sir John had finished his long, prosy yarn, two gentlemen leaped to their feet—Mr. Bernal Osborne and Mr. Otto Trevelyan. There were loud cries, mainly from the young swells of the House, for Mr. Osborne. "Osborne! Osborne!" resounded through the House. "From grave to gay" is but natural. These young gentlemen, after the dull speech of Sir John, wanted amusement. But Mr. Speaker called upon Mr. Trevelyan, and he would not give way, and in a minute or two the noise subsided and Mr. Trevelyan was allowed to proceed. We may have lost some fun by Mr. Trevelyan's persistency, but we gained instruction. Mr. Osborne is not an instructive speaker; he does not aspire to the high post of teacher; he is ambitious to amuse. He would rather of the two evoke laughter than applause; and if for half an hour he can keep the House in a roar he thinks he has achieved a triumph. Mr. Trevelyan is an earnest, sincere reformer, and aims at convincing the judgment, and cares not to shake the sides of the members. Mr. Trevelyan has not spoken much in the House; he has been a member only two years, and a year and a half of that time he was in a subordinate post in the Admiralty. But last year he slipped his shackles, and now we may expect to hear him frequently on this great Army question. He is an accomplished man, a good sound speaker, can work hard, and will make his mark. But more of him another day, for our space fails.

Imperial Parliament.

FRIDAY, MARCH 10.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

THE TORPEY CASE.

LORD STANHOPE called attention to the recent acquittal of Martha Torpey, and inquired whether the Government intended to bring in any measure to remedy the present state of the law with respect to the relations of husband and wife in criminal matters, in which there was reason to apprehend a similar miscarriage of justice.

LORD CHANCELLOR explained that the miscarriages referred to was attributable not to the direction of the Judge or to the state of the law, but solely to the jury, who, it appeared, had been unable to resist the influence exercised by the sight of a well-dressed and interesting young woman standing at the bar with an infant in her arms. He promised, however, to consider the subject with a view to prevent the recurrence of a similar mistake.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

A NEW ABYSSINIAN CASE.

MR. POWELL referred to the circumstances under which envoys from Prince Kassa of Abyssinia to the Queen were detained three months at Suez, and inquired the reasons which had induced the Government to advise the return of the envoys without fulfilling their mission.

LORD EXCHEQUER explained, in reply, that to the effect that neither the India Office nor the Treasury would incur the expense of conveying the envoys to this country, and maintaining them here; for it appeared that the strangers made it a condition they were to be treated as "Royal guests." Thereupon an intimation was given them that the Government were averse to their undertaking the journey, and that they could send the presents with which they were charged to her Majesty by other means. That had since been done; the letter from Prince Kassa would be laid before the Queen; and the envoys had been informed that a suitable reply would be forwarded to their Royal master.

THE EDUCATIONAL CODE.

The House then proceeded to discuss the new code of education, and was engaged in its consideration for the greater portion of the sitting.

MONDAY, MARCH 13.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

The House received from the Commons the Marriage with a Deceased Wife's Sister Bill, and read it the first time.

LORD GRANVILLE made an explanation with regard to the conclusions arrived at that day by the Conference on the Treaty of 1856, identical with that which was given by Lord Enfield at an earlier hour in the other House.

Their Lordships subsequently discussed and read the second time the Table of Lessons Bill, after Lord Cairns had objected to the recital in the preamble of the approval given to the measure by Convocation, although that body had not been licensed to consider the subject.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE BLACK SEA QUESTION.

LORD ENFIELD (the Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs) announced, in reply to an inquiry of Mr. Baillie Cochrane, that a treaty had been signed that day at the Foreign Office by which the clauses in the Treaty of 1856 respecting the neutralisation of the Black Sea were abrogated, and the restrictions imposed by previous existing treaties on the Porte in regard to closing the Dardanelles and the Bosphorus, when the Porte is at peace, were so far modified as to admit of opening them in time of peace to the ships of war of friendly and allied Powers, in case the Porte should deem it necessary in order to ensure the execution of the stipulations of the Treaty of Paris of March 30, 1856. The treaty just signed also provided for the prolongation of the European Commission of the Danube for twelve years; and, further, for the continued neutrality of the works already created or to be erected by the Commission, with a saving, however, of the rights of the Porte as a territorial Power to send ships of war into the Danube. At the first meeting of the Conference, on Jan. 17, a similar protocol was signed, recording it as an essential principle of a treaty, or modify the stipulations thereof, unless with the consent of the

contracting Powers, by means of an amicable arrangement. The French Plenipotentiary, the noble Lord added, had that day signed this protocol, together with the treaty; and these, with the proceedings of the Conference, would be laid before Parliament with the least possible delay.

THE ARMY REGULATION BILL.

The debate on the Army Regulation Bill was resumed by Sir J. PAKINGTON, who, protesting with what regret he opposed it, characterised the bill as a sop to democracy, which would not add one iota to the national defences. Dealing first with the abolition of purchase, he professed his astonishment at an "economical Ministry" coming down with a wantonly extravagant proposal for which they could offer no other reason than that it was necessary for the amalgamation of the Line and the Reserves. This, he argued, could be done without abolishing purchase, and therefore he objected to spend so many millions unnecessarily, in conjunction with the unknown expenses of retirement and the well-known evils of selection. Touching on this last point, he maintained that the new system would either open the door to favouritism, patronage, and political influence, of which his experience at the Admiralty had given him a lively horror, or would relapse into a mere system of seniority, to the great detriment of the country. Discussing Mr. Cardwell's estimate of the cost, he maintained that it would range between £10,000,000 and £11,000,000; and, canvassing the other portions of the bill, he expressed disappointment that the opportunity had not been taken to raise the strength of the Militia, to give a broader reorganisation to the civil departments of the Army, and to utilise the half-pay officers on a larger scale. He approved, however, of the refusal to sanction compulsory service, of the transfer of the Militia to the Lord Lieutenants, and of other minor points in the bill.

MR. TREVELYAN prefaced his speech in support of the bill by replying to the numerous attacks made on him in the course of the debate. He then went on to discuss the cost of abolishing purchase, defending his own estimate, and combating as utterly delusive the suggestion that the regulation price should be paid down at once and over-regulation prices ignored. The present time, he argued, was most opportune for entirely getting rid of purchase, and he warned the friends of the system that they might not get such good terms if they delayed the settlement. Anticipating that the rejection of the bill might bring about a dissolution, he welcomed the abolition of purchase as a most potent Hastings cry. As considerable length he explained the practical consequences which he expected from this change—a re-division of the country into military districts, with the localisation of army administration; the amalgamation of the Line and Militia, with the establishment of a nucleus of adequately educated officers; short terms of service for the men and open competition for the officers; and the institution of a fair and impartial system of retirement.

The debate, which was continued by Colonel Brise, Mr. Gourlay, Mr. Eastwick, Mr. A. Herbert, Lord Eustace Cecil, and other hon. members, was again adjourned.

TUESDAY, MARCH 14.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

The House had an ecclesiastical sitting, and passed a new Table of Lessons Bill and the Benefices Resignation Bill through Committee.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Mr. Stansfeld took his seat for Halifax, upon his re-election for that borough.

OFFICIAL SALARIES.

MR. LAMBERT moved the appointment of a Committee to inquire into official salaries, with a view to the increase of the emoluments of the Ministers of the Crown, especially those of the Premier (which was seconded by Mr. Dillwyn in an almost opposite sense). This proposal led to a conversation upon a larger topic—the alterations which have been made in the constitution of the present Cabinet, and the transfer of its members from one office to another. This turn was given to it by Mr. FAWCETT, who expressed his profound regret at the removal of Mr. Goschen from the Board of Trade to the Admiralty; and he was followed by Mr. Rathbone, who expressed a fear that Mr. Forster himself might be in danger of being transferred from the department of which he is practically the head to some other of higher salary and nominally more important; while Mr. Mundella made some unfavourable comments upon the recent changes at the Board of Trade. Upon the actual subject of the resolution, Mr. Gladstone declared that, in his opinion, no case had been made out for the increase either of his own salary or of that of any other Minister; and upon the other topic which had been introduced into the debate, he assured the House that all the changes which had recently been made in the several departments of the Government had been dictated solely by a regard for the public interest. The right hon. gentleman referred to the exceptional difficulties with which the present Ministry had had to contend in consequence of three of its most important members having been struck down by death or disease within eight months; and admitted that their loss had diminished the resources from which the Government was originally formed. Despite appeals addressed to him by the Prime Minister, Mr. White, and others, Mr. Lambert declined to withdraw his motion, but he allowed it to be negatived without a division.

POSTAL REFORM.

MR. MONSELL, in answer to an appeal from Mr. Graves, announced his intention to establish a real small-parcels post, for either open or closed parcels, the weight to be limited to 12 lb., and the rates to vary from 1d. for 1 lb. up to 4d. as the highest rate; and to introduce a new scale of charges for money orders, which will rise from 1d. for sums under 10s. up to 1s. for £10. At the same time he stated that the increase of money-order offices, especially in rural districts, is engaging the attention of the Post Office.

TRADES UNION BILL.

MR. BRUCE having moved the second reading of this bill, Mr. S. Cave expressed a general approval of its provisions, which was echoed by Mr. T. Hughes, except so far as concerned the penal enactments of the third clause against "molestation and obstruction," the omission of which was strongly recommended by the member for Frome. Sir C. Adelerley also desired to see these offences dealt with by separate legislation; but Mr. Jessel defended the introduction of this third clause in the interest of workmen themselves. Mr. Hermon, on one side of the House, and Mr. Anderson, on the other, supported the bill. The Solicitor-General defended the third clause, on the ground that it was intended to define strictly the offences for which, and for which only, those who were concerned in trade combinations should be punishable under special legislation. Mr. Mundella and Mr. A. Herbert alike urged the omission of the clause. Mr. Bruce confined his remarks almost entirely to an argument in favour of its retention, as necessary to the protection of workmen against one another, and when he sat down the bill was read the second time without a dissentient voice.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Nearly the entire sitting was devoted to the consideration of Sir H. J. S. Ibbetson's bill for the more efficient inspection of railways and the adoption of means for guarding against preventable accidents. The second reading of the measure was vigorously opposed by the railway interest; and in consequence of the prolongation of the discussion to the moment when further debate is precluded on Wednesdays, the bill became a "dropped order," to be resumed on some future opportune occasion. The "business" actually done was compressed into about ten minutes, and included the second reading of the Bank Holidays Bill; passing through Committee the Public Parks Bill, the Workshop Regulation Act (1867) Amendment Bill, and the Income Tax Assessment Bill; the final stage of the Stamp Act (1870) Amendment Bill; and the introduction, by Mr. Dadds, of a Salmon Fishery Bill for England and Wales.

THURSDAY, MARCH 16.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

The University Tests Bill, after a brief discussion, was read the second time, the Marquis of Salisbury, on the part of the Opposition, declining to resist the motion, but reserving to himself the right of criticising some of the details of the measure when it reached the stage of committee.

The Prayer Book (Table of Lessons) Bill was reported, with amendments.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE CONFERENCE.

SIR C. DILKE asked the First Lord of the Treasury what day he would fix for the debate on the conduct of her Majesty's Government in accepting the London Conference.

MR. GLADSTONE could not promise anything until the debate on the Army Regulation Bill was disposed of; but when that had terminated and certain necessary sums of money had been voted, he would endeavour to meet the wishes of the hon. member, although the Licensing Bill and other important measures would be considerably delayed in consequence.

THE ARMY REGULATION BILL.

The fourth night's debate on the second reading of this bill was resumed by Viscount BURY, who, after reviewing the speeches of previous speakers, said that, although the amendment had been very carefully framed, it was not sufficiently wide to carry the support of all the opponents of the bill, and therefore, the only course open to them was to say "No" to the second reading of the bill. Referring to the present condition of our defences, he warned the Government that the course they were pursuing might possibly be fatal to us in case of emergency. It did not now seem probable, but he considered it very possible that we should soon have America in arms against us, and that she would be supported by those European Powers whose intentions towards us were not of the most friendly nature.

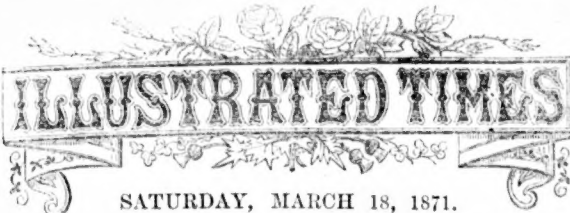
MR. B. OSBORNE followed, in a speech characterised by his usual vein of humour. He ridiculed many of the provisions of the bill, which he looked upon as a mere sham, and urged Colonel Lindsay to withdraw his amend-

ment, as disjointed and incoherent, in order that the House might be better able to come to a decision upon the main question. The debate was continued until a late hour of the night.

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SATURDAY, MARCH 18, 1871.

THE ROYAL MARRIAGE.

THE Royal Marriage! It is only by a figure of speech that the phrase can be justified, for marriage is between human beings as such and not between "personages;" and, besides, one of the high contracting parties in the impending instance is not "Royal." Strange to say, indeed, the "woman" is in this case a Princess, while "the head of the woman," as an old-fashioned book calls the husband, is a commoner. Yet we doubt if the natural order of the relation will be reversed because while the lady is "Royal," the "Lord" is only a Marquis by courtesy. It is a curious fact that general laws, older than the deluge and newer than our own immediate fathers and mothers—nay, newer than our own weddings—have settled beforehand a good many questions of the kind for all of us. It is said that once upon a time a party of wealthy people—father, mother, infant, and nurse—were overtaken on Salisbury Plain one night by a severe snowstorm, and took refuge in a shepherd's cottage. The first care of the parents and the nurse was to warm up the half-frozen little one. In order that it might be put into a warm bath, it was stripped. As wrapper after wrapper—silk and fine linen and what not—came off from the young pink flesh, the shepherd and his wife looked on, amazed and awed. Surely so much splendour must develop into something extraordinary! That the babe had not wings was already apparent, and they scarcely expected to see a prehensile tail; but in their simple eyes all that rich attire portended something strange. At last, the infant stood revealed to all beholders with, as Hans Breitmann says, "noddings on." And then, the pent-up feelings of the shepherd broke forth in the cry, "God-a-mercy, wife! the bonny bairn's for all the world like one of our own!"

That is just what the ILLUSTRATED TIMES has all along felt—for even a newspaper can feel in such a matter—with regard to their wedding. "The bonny bairn's like one of our own." Holding this to be a sort of truism, we have not gone into raptures over the fact that Princess Louise was going to marry the Marquis of Lorne. "And what for no?" It is a good thing that a contemptible tradition should be broken through; but it is not a matter to go into hysterics of congratulation about. We have taken that as a matter of course, and it is only the immense publicity of the wedding that excuses our saying anything about it, except as a matter of news. Of news concerning the event there is likely to be quite enough. The poor lady must have the nerves of a rhinoceros—supposing she reads the papers—if she has not already had more than she likes about her dowry and her annual allowance; and the alleged backwardness of the "preparations" appears to have quite alarmed our contemporaries. The bride's trousseau is not yet advertised with the minuteness of an outfitting haberdasher's advertisement; but all in good time—all in good time! If we do not learn it, down to the last cuff and kerchief, it will not be the fault of Jenkins.

But, though Jenkins is very well in his way, we cannot refrain from asking, Where is Jones? Jones, the Boy Jones, as he used to be called, was an ingenious youth, who, when the Queen was younger, was always hunting her up. If she was on t ofa, reading Tennyson, the boy Jones would drop suddenly down the chimney and confront her. To quote Breitmann once more, "Vere is dat barty now?" It was understood that, after suffering many things at the hands of beefeaters and the police, he went to sea, and swarmed aloft like a thousand monkeys. Also, that he came down the rigging as cleverly as he went up. Alas! by this time he must have lost much in agility, though he may have gained in waistband. But if "dat barty" could be caught and utilised, what a treasure he would prove to some of our contemporaries! If he could only be stimulated to descend a chimney, and report that he had seen the young Lord of Lorne—a common Marquis—with his common arm around the waist—pardon! the Royal Waist—of his Bride: why, good heavens! what a bit of news.

However, it is idle to speculate in this way. There was a Duke of Fitz-Gridiron, or something, whose wife once laid her hand in fondness on his shoulder. "Madam!" said the outraged husband, "my first wife was a Fitz-Coalscuttle, and she never dared to do as much!" Now, we are inclined to believe—though we do not commit ourselves—that this sort of thing is out of date. And we only hope that too many of the indignant patriots who opposed the dowry will not get very drunk indeed on the evening of the wedding-day, which will be over before our next Number is printed.

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

THE QUEEN has appointed Wednesday, March 29, 1871, when her Majesty will open the Royal Albert Hall of Arts and Sciences, erected as a memorial of the Prince Consort.

THE PRINCE OF WALES has subscribed £100 towards the restoration of the choir of Exeter Cathedral.

GENERAL MOLTKE, WERDER, AND MANTEUFFEL have all been rejected at Berlin elections, and leaders of the Liberal party have been chosen instead. The official journals express their astonishment at this result.

COLONEL SIR G. J. WOLSELEY, K.C.M.G., is gazetted a Companion of the Bath. The like honour is conferred upon the Hon. W. Stuart, Minister Plenipotentiary to the Argentine Republic, who has acted as protocolist to the London Conference.

MR. STANSFELD was, on Monday, re-elected for Halifax without opposition.

LORD HASTINGS, whose death is announced in his forty-ninth year, is succeeded in his title by his brother, the Hon. and Rev. Delaval Loftus Astley. The barony of Hastings is one of the oldest in the Peerage. It dates from 1289.

MR. BRIGHT states, in a letter to a friend, that his health is at present better than it has been at any time since the commencement of his illness. Mr. Bright will shortly visit Scotland to enjoy the sport of salmon fishing.

THE EARL OF DERBY will take the chair at the annual meeting of the Charity Organisation Society, to be held on Wednesday next, at Willis's Rooms.

MR. LEFEVRE has been appointed Secretary to the Admiralty, in the place of Mr. Baxter; and Mr. Winterbottom, M.P. for Stroud, succeeds Mr. Lefevre as Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department.

PRINCE MIASAMA, together with eleven noblemen, from Japan, arrived in Liverpool on Wednesday. Their visit to England has no political bearing, but is due to a desire to become practically conversant with our system of trade and commerce.

THE TREASURY has awarded Sir Spencer Robinson a pension in addition to the half pay he is entitled to as a flag officer.

MR. JOHN PREL is mentioned as a probable candidate for the seat vacated at Tamworth by Sir H. Bulwer's elevation to the Peerage.

THE LONDON DIOCESAN BOARD OF EDUCATION has resolved to appoint a clergyman as inspector of schools in religious knowledge, at a salary of £400 per annum; and it is understood that the Rural Deans of the diocese will be invited each to recommend a candidate for the appointment. This arrangement, however, will not exclude candidates recommended from other quarters.

THE WILL OF BARON NATHANIEL DE ROTHSCHILD, who died in Paris last year, has been proved in London. The personality in England was sworn under £1,800,000.

THE QUEEN has been pleased to confer upon Mr. Blount, who has been lately acting as her Majesty's Consul at Paris, the honour of the Companionship of the Bath.

THE ELECTORS OF PONTEFRAC, at a meeting held last week, passed a resolution expressing the hope that Mr. Childers would take such relaxation from his Parliamentary duties as might be necessary to complete his restoration to health. A resolution of sympathy with the right hon. gentleman and his family, under the circumstances of his present indisposition, was also adopted.

MR. BUCKSTONE has taken a new lease of the Haymarket Theatre. He has been lessee for seventeen years.

HOLKER HALL, one of the seats of the Duke of Devonshire, near Ulverston, was almost totally destroyed by fire on Friday morning week.

IT IS RUMOURED THAT A REVIEW of the whole of the ships of the Royal Navy available to leave ports will be held in the course of the present summer, the ships to assemble at Spithead and manoeuvre along the Sussex coast.

M. GUIZOT, it is stated, notwithstanding his age and his long retirement from the political arena, is thinking of again entering into public life, and is about to become a candidate at one of the elections shortly to be held to fill up the vacancies in the National Assembly.

THE REV. JOSEPH BABER LIGHTFOOT, D.D., Hulsean Professor of Divinity at Cambridge, Honorary Chaplain in Ordinary to the Queen, and Examining Chaplain to the Archbishop of Canterbury, has been installed Canon of St. Paul's Cathedral, in the place of the Rev. Henry Melvill, D.D., recently deceased.

SIR SAMUEL BAKER'S EXPEDITION is reported all well on Dec. 6. He was then at Tewfikaya, in the latitude of 9.26 N.

THE COLONIAL OFFICE having signified a wish that, owing to the disturbed state of the Gold Coast, a British naval force should be dispatched thither, the Lords of the Admiralty have instructed Commodore Comberelli, V.C., O.B., to proceed to that part of his station with the disposable ships at his command.

M. HERMANN, the great prestidigitateur, who continues his performances at the Egyptian Hall, was honoured, the other evening, with the presence of his Highness the Nawab Nazim of Bengal, his sons, and suite.

A BIRMINGHAM BUTCHER NAMED LARTER has been sent by the magistrates for three months' imprisonment, without the option of a fine, for selling diseased meat.

THE TOWN COUNCIL OF CHESTER have resolved not to establish a school board in their city till they shall have had time to observe the working of the boards established in other places—in London and Liverpool more particularly.

A FATAL BOAT ACCIDENT took place on the Thames on Sunday, opposite the Crab Tree. Four men and a boy were rowing in an outrigger, when the boat suddenly filled and turned over on its side. Two out of the five clung to the boat and were saved; the other three, in their attempt to swim ashore, were drowned.

SIR MICHAEL HICKS BEACH, Bart., M.P., will preside at a conference on the relations that should exist between the clergy and the poor law, which is to be held, under the auspices of the Charity Organisation Society, on the 23rd inst. The Earl of Shaftesbury will take the chair, on the 24th, at a conference on the repression of mendicancy throughout the country, to which representatives of all the provincial mendicity societies have been invited.

THE WIDOW OF THE LATE MR. GEORGE HENRY SMITH, civil engineer, whose death was caused by the accident which occurred at Harrow, in November last, has obtained £3200 from the London and North-Western Railway Company as compensation and damages for the loss of her husband.

CAMPBELL AND GALBRAITH, the two men in custody for the murder of Mr. Galloway at Stratford, were last Saturday committed by the magistrates for trial—the former on the charge of wilful murder, and the latter on that of aiding and abetting in the commission of the crime.

A REMARKABLE RIGHT-OF-WAY CASE was decided at the Exeter Assizes on Monday. The plaintiff was a brother of the Attorney-General, and the defendant the Rev. Mr. Parby, of Hordridge, near Plymouth. The case lasted nearly three days, and will involve costs to the amount of about a thousand pounds; yet, according to the counsel for the defendant, the right of way could have been purchased for fourpence a year.

SAMUEL LEE, a potman, serving at the Drayton Arms, West Brompton, was murdered on Aug. 16 last, and the author of the crime managed to elude the vigilance of the police. Early on last Sunday morning a journeyman painter, named Charles Woolley, of Ranelagh-grove, Pimlico, gave himself up to the police as the murderer.

A SAD ACCIDENT took place at the Paris Central Markets last Saturday. There was a cry of mad dog, and two National Guards imprudently fired at the animal. One bullet rolled the dog over, but the other first wounded a little girl in the hand and then killed a man dead on the spot. The National Guard who committed the homicide took to his heels and has not since been heard of.

CUSTOMS DUTIES IN LONDON will, on and after April 1, be received by the collector, and not, as heretofore, by the Receiver-General, whose office will be abolished. The collector, who is to make a daily return of the amount received by him to the Accountant and Controller General, is to have his staff strengthened by the transfer of "a sufficient number of clerks" from the Receiver-General's Department.

THE STEAMER WISCONSIN, Captain Williams, which arrived in the Mersey from New York on Sunday, had on board not less than 65 tons 5 cwt of silver coins, principally Mexican dollars, a large portion of which are intended for this country, and the remainder for the Continent. The specie was removed to the London and North-Western Railway station, and on Monday morning it was dispatched, in fourteen closed railway wagons, to London for distribution at the Bank of England among the consignees, some of whom reside in Liverpool.

AT A MEETING OF THE MANSSION HOUSE FRENCH RELIEF FUND, on Tuesday, the Lord Mayor reported that the subscriptions received now amounted to £122,150. Mr. George Moore expressed a strong opinion that a great deal more money was still required to relieve the pressing wants of the provinces, as very little had been done outside Paris. Other speakers held that the committee should shortly close its operations. An additional sum of £10,000 was placed at the disposal of the Paris committee.

FINE ARTS.

EXHIBITION OF PICTURES BY FRENCH ARTISTS.

THE occupation of the German Gallery, in Old Bond-street, by the works of French artists is an event on which visitors to this admirable collection of paintings may well congratulate themselves, however deeply they may deplore the calamities which have led to the first French fine-art exhibition of the year being held in London instead of in Paris.

Our readers who have from time to time seen in our pages illustrations taken from the most prominent pictures in the Salon des Beaux Arts, will this year have an opportunity of judging for themselves of some of the masterpieces of modern French painting. But it is not to modern painting alone that this exhibition is confined. There are a few examples of a past school from Greuze to David, the "Visit to the Hermit" of the former painter being admirably representative of his style; while that powerful picture "The Death of Murat" has been brought from the collection of Prince Napoleon to represent the amazing force and intensity of the artist who was almost supreme under the first Empire.

Of more modern examples there are many that will attract delighted attention, and among them a whole series of the works of Dupré, of marvellous landscapes, with such cloud and water as can rarely be found combined; or, at all events, are rarely seen in as great variety, since this eminent artist's works include rustic lanes and woods, purling streams, and wonderful glimpses of sea and beach, with cloud as well as atmosphere, sand as well as wave, touched with a power that is as near as possible to perfection. There are also several small pictures by Millet—one of them a mere seascape, from a rock in the foreground, and the distance where sky and water meet at a far horizon. It is a picture that first repels, then grows on you when you discover its immensity of atmosphere and space; a wonderful study of distant effect, without the aid of diminishing objects to lead the eye along a perspective.

Unfortunately for the full enjoyment of this exhibition, the gallery is far too small for the number of pictures, though the greater number of pictures are themselves small. They cannot, however, be hung in regular order according to the catalogue, and this is a disadvantage to the art-critic who wishes to go through his work in an impartial manner; but it is no great disadvantage to the visitor or to the connoisseur in so small a room. There are certain exquisite or powerful works that attract the eye at once, and many of them require and repay long study and quiet settlement of observation. The large works are not the most attractive. "The Execution in the Alhambra," for instance, is theatrical and unpleasantly sanguinary. How it has been possible to shear off a human head while the body is in such a position is a question that the curious will ask, and especially as the neck has not been bared for the blow. The "St. Sebastian" is a fine work, but it demands too much attention in comparison with the gems of which the attractive portion of the exhibition is for the most part composed. The smaller figure-subjects are many of them admirable; and there are a few *genre* pictures that should find ready admirers; but the excellence lies mostly in landscape and those fine seascapes of which there is such charming variety. It is to be regretted, however, that the committee have not been able to obtain premises where there is sufficient wall space for twice as many paintings, since there are a large number of excellent works, and some masterpieces of modern French art, which are not hung at all, and can only be seen by being placed about the room for the inspection of visitors who have already examined the paintings for which wall space has been found. We may yet hear that the exhibition has attained larger dimensions, and that the salon of French Fine Arts in London will be a permanent gallery for each annual season.

THE FORTHCOMING BUDGET.

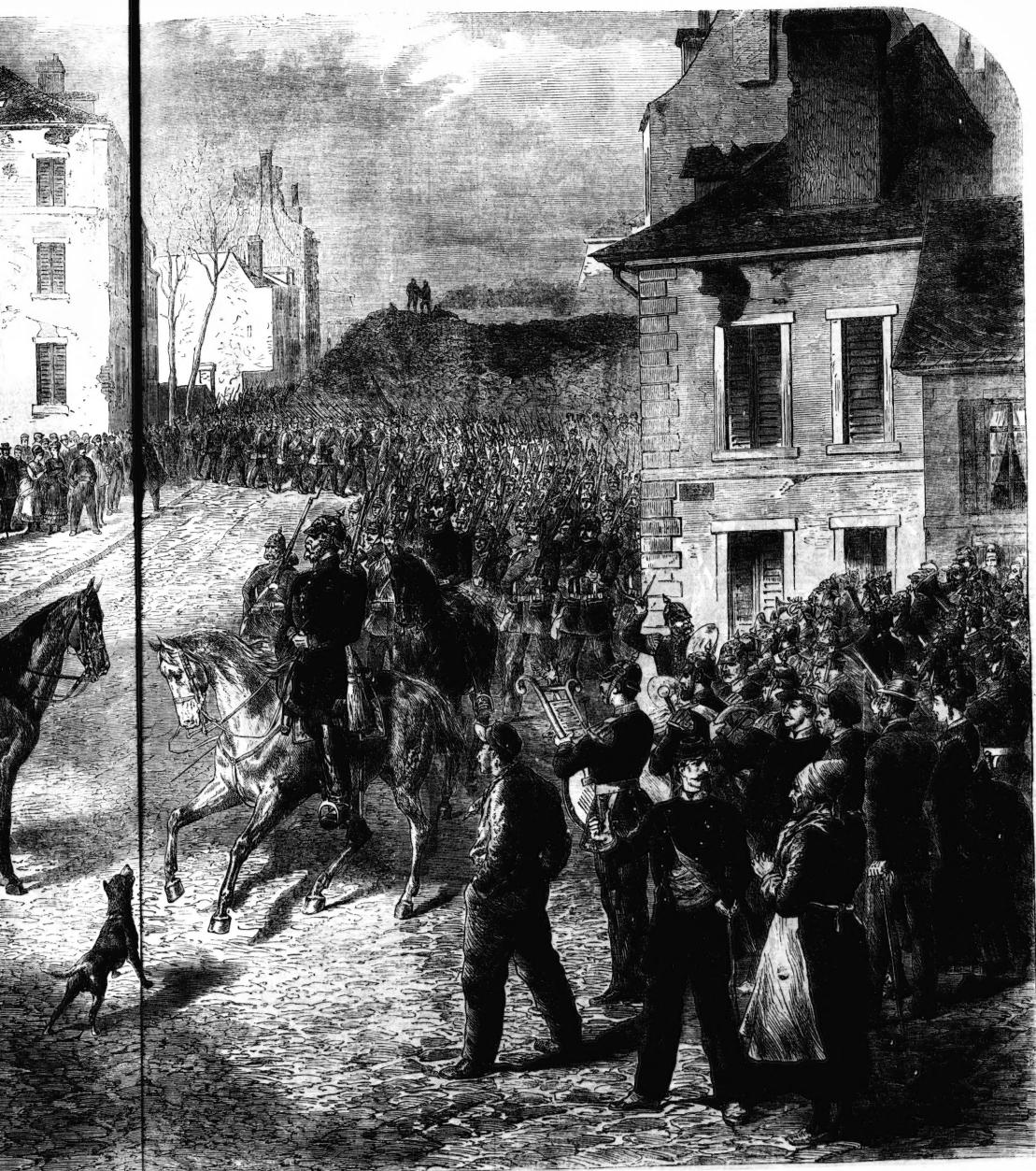
THE particulars are still dubious, but it is evident that the Budget which Mr. Lowe must soon give us will be a very unpleasant one. This is not, indeed, at all Mr. Lowe's fault. His estimates of the revenue last year were moderate and cautious, and will be more than borne out by the event. The reason is that, owing to the increase of the Army and Navy Estimates, he will have to provide for a much larger sum this year than last, and for that purpose he will need serious additional taxation. As to the expenditure of next year, as we have the Army and Navy Estimates, an approximate estimate not very far from the mark can be formed. We do not, indeed, know the exact new sum which will be wanted, but we believe that the sum stated below is an under and not an over estimate, and that more and not less will probably be wanted. The account of the expenditure, we anticipate, will stand nearly thus:—Interest of debt, &c. (as in last year's Budget), £26,840,000; Consolidated Fund charges (as in last year's Budget), £1,820,000; Army Estimates, £15,852,000; minimum estimate for abolition of purchase, £858,000; Navy Estimates, £9,756,000; Civil Service and Revenue departments (as in last year's Budget), £16,417,000; addition to Civil Service Estimates for education, £600,000; total, £72,143,000. Now, as in April last Mr. Lowe only provided for an expenditure of £67,486,000, it is plain that the increase is very great. As to the state of the revenue, the case is much pleasanter. Mr. Lowe estimated last year for a revenue of £67,635,000; but the result will probably far exceed it. We cannot judge of all the items on account of the irregularities of collection; but to take the two most important items—the customs and the excise—we find that about £1,500,000 is the excess over the Budget estimate already gained. The estimate for the excise was £21,660,000, or about £100,000 less than the actual yield of last year; but the yield up to the end of last week compares as follows with the corresponding period of last year:—Yield of excise, from April 1, 1870, to March 4, 1871, £20,205,000; ditto for corresponding period of last year, £19,362,000; increase over estimate, £843,000. As regards the customs, which come in with more regularity than the excise, we may compare the actual yield to date with the proportionate period of the Budget estimate, viz.:—Actual yield of customs to date, £18,564,000; proportion of estimate to date, £17,925,000—increase over estimate, £639,000. These two items of increase amount together to £1,482,000, which is very satisfactory, and, if our expenditure had not been increased, would have been ground for expecting a fair surplus. The usual practice of the Revenue Departments is to base their estimate of the coming year on the actual yield of the past one. They presume, in the absence of exceptional events, that the next year will yield much the same. They do not speculate sanguinely on improvement; they properly make such an estimate as will be realised if the country is not particularly prosperous, and if only it retains the happiness to which it has advanced. Supposing the estimate this year to be made on the same principle, the result will be something like this—Probable expenditure, £72,200,000; probable revenue from present sources of taxation, £69,200,000; consequent deficit, £3,000,000—a very serious sum, and plainly necessitating large additional taxation.—*Economist*.

With the approaching close of the financial year, more than the ordinary interest is attached to the weekly returns issued from the Treasury. The Chancellor of the Exchequer, in his Budget speech, estimated the receipts at £67,634,000. Up to Saturday last, when the financial year had three weeks longer to run, £64,194,104 had been received. The Customs receipts are within £400,000 of the estimate, the Excise within £600,000, and Stamps are within £150,000. The expenditure has been £62,999,054, or more than a million sterling under the income. The balance in the Bank of England on Saturday last was £6,014,255.

SOME BRISTOL SHIPMASTERS in the African trade have just presented to the National Life-Boat Institution a fine new life-boat, to be stationed at Morte Bay, on the north coast of Devon. The boat is named the "Jack-a-Jack," at the request of the donors, and it was on Saturday exhibited in Bristol and Clifton, en route to its station, in the presence of some 50,000 or 60,000 persons. The life-boat was taken in procession through the city, preceded by six bands of music, and some 12,000 volunteers, together with a large body of Naval Reserve men, &c.



THE SURRENDER OF PARIS: ENTRY OF THE FOURTH GERMAN ARMY INTO



3: ENTRY OF THE FOURTH GERMAN ARMY INTO ST. DENIS.—(SEE PAGE 173.)

THE LOUNGER.

SIR CHARLES DILKE has the following notice of motion on the paper:—"To call attention to the papers relating to the Conference, and to move the following resolution (Treaty of Paris Conference)—That this House regrets that her Majesty's Government accepted a proposition for the assembly of a conference under the circumstances disclosed in the papers relating to Prince Gortschakoff's circular note, which have been laid before Parliament." This is a motion of "want of confidence." Mr. Gladstone recognised it as such, and promised Sir Charles Dilke an early day for its discussion. But my readers need not be excited. It is probable that there will be no division; if Sir Charles Dilke be wise there will be none. But, if there should be a division, the Government will not be defeated. It is not plain what cause Sir Charles Dilke has for regret. Why no confidence? Is it not better to settle disputes in the conference-chamber than by the fell arbitrament of war? It is curious that whilst Conservative chiefs are giving in their adhesion to this peaceful mode of settling differences, some of our Radicals below the gangway are showing signs of dissatisfaction with it. Further, all the great European Powers, Turkey included, assented to this Conference. Does Sir Charles think that England ought to have refused assent and fought Russia alone? and, if so, Turkey being satisfied, what had we to fight about?

Some people fancy that the Government will be defeated upon the Army Reorganisation Bill, and that Parliament will be dissolved. I do not believe a word of this; I see no chance of a Government defeat. What may, doubtless will, happen is this—the Conservatives may divide upon Colonel Loyd-Lindsay's amendment to preserve army purchase; but, if they should, the Liberals will close their ranks and defeat them. In Committee on the bill the Radicals will certainly oppose the payment of anything beyond the regulation price; but on that question the Conservatives will vote with the Government, and defeat the Radicals. The Government, I hear, have no fear that they shall not carry their bill substantially as it is. In Committee of Supply the Radicals will oppose the extra vote for increasing the artillery, but only by way of protest; they do not hope to succeed.

The Right Hon. Edward Pleydell Bouverie is, I learn, to bring the case of the dismissal of Sir Spencer Robinson before the House. Sir Robert Peel wished very much to have charge of the matter; but it has been placed in far better hands. Sir Robert, of course, wanted it as a weapon to assail the Government. Mr. Bouverie wishes only to get justice done to an eminent public officer, who, as he and many others think, has been harshly treated. Besides, Mr. Bouverie is a grave, independent, prudent man; and though he will nothing extenuate, neither will he set down aught in malice. He, like Sir Robert, has been passed by; but, if he feels any annoyance, he is too high-minded a gentleman to show it. By-the-way, many wonder why Mr. Bouverie has not been invited to take office. It was said, when Mr. Gladstone was forming his Cabinet, that he was so embarrassed with riches that he was obliged to pass by some of his old friends; but that embarrassment has come to an end.

A PRETTY JEST.—"I say, Lorne," said the Whip to the Marquis as he passed out of the House; "do you wish to be paired on the 22nd?"

I wonder, Mr. Editor, how many of your readers have been privileged to receive a letter "par Balloon Monte," or by balloon post. A good many such missives have, no doubt, been received since the German armies drew their girdle of iron round the French capital; and no doubt, too, those missives are carefully treasured as curiosities by their recipients. But, still, vast numbers of persons have never even seen a "balloon letter," who would yet be very glad to do so. Well, this wish may be easily gratified. Messrs. Letts, Son, and Co. have reproduced, in exact facsimile, a "Balloon Monte" letter, and sell the article for a trifling sum. I have a copy of this missive before me, and a very neat and exceedingly light little packet it is. The contents I have not looked at; they can have no interest for anyone; but I may state that it is addressed to a certain "Mrs. Simpson, Hereford-square, London, S.W., Angleterre," and bears a couple of postage stamps (very nicely-executed female heads, symbolical of the "République Française") with the impressed stamp of the French and English post-offices, all in perfectly regular style. This souvenir of the siege and specimen of the results of aerial navigation is a curiosity in its way, and is well worth possessing and preserving. Let me take this opportunity of noting a very common blunder in addressing letters which is committed by Mrs. Simpson's correspondent. The letter is directed to "Hereford-square, London, S.W." Now, there is no south-west London; but there is a "S.W." district of London, in which Hereford-square is situated. The address therefore ought to have run "Hereford-square, S.W., London." Do you remember the story of a letter addressed to a street in "London, W.C.," which was read at a provincial post office as meaning "London, West Canada," the missive being sent across the Atlantic in consequence? Let letter-writers perpend, and cease to misplace the initial letters of the London postal districts.

THE LITERARY LOUNGER.

THE MAGAZINES, ETC.

In dealing, a few weeks ago, with one of the magazines, I said something about the difficulties attending that revision of the Bible as to the necessity of which most people are now agreed. The revision of the Dictionary is another matter, but it is cognate; and a very amusing passage at arms between the Bishop of Chichester and Earl Grey occurred in the House of Lords the other night over the Athanasian Creed. Lord Grey denounced the phraseology of the creed as barbarous, and the words "begotten" and "proceeding" as irreverent. The Bishop of Chichester replied that both those words were adopted out of the Bible. Earl Grey said that he took leave to doubt that, with regard to the word "proceeding" at least. If Earl Grey will turn to John viii. 42, he will find these words:—"Jesus said unto them, I proceeded forth, and came from God." So the Bishop had the best of it. The only wonder is, that people should take upon themselves to speak offhand with confidence about matters in which there is room for doubt, while the means of verification are in the hands not only of Macaulay's "School-boy" but of every Sunday scholar in Britain.

Belgravia presents no salient feature (*style choisi*). The most original thing in the number is an article on "Furs," by Archibald Forbes.

In *Good Words* the author of "Peasant Life in the North" begins a charming story, entitled "Queer Jean." I never before heard of "George Heath, the Moorland Poet;" but Mr. Buchanan's paper about him is all the more interesting for that. The young man, who died of consumption, at twenty-six years of age, was born of poor parents, at Gratton, in Staffordshire. He learnt to read and write at a national school; then went out to work as a farm-labourer in his father's fields; and, lastly, was apprenticed to a carpenter. A cold caught while he was at work at the restoration of Hendon Church woke into life a strumous predisposition, and so he sat down and died. Judging from the extracts given by Mr. Buchanan, young Heath was a singer of very remarkable promise. He appears to have seen with his own eyes, and to have formed for himself a curiously bold and distinctive manner. It is idle to speculate as to the precise development which might have befallen his genius; but as there are no signs in his writing of that purely imitative accommodating weakness which is so common in the works of poets of what Holmes calls the Albino type, and as his training had nothing of the hothouse about it, one cannot help believing George Heath would have done strong and stimulating work as a poet if he had lived, and seen more of books and men. This little memoir (which in the volume was published by Bennet and Sons) is accompanied

by a likeness and a sketch of the cottage in which Heath was born. The likeness is from the hand of his friend Foster. It is impossible for the cranioscopist to rely upon the entire accuracy of portraits made by artists, however able, who have not themselves made cranioscopy a study; but George Heath's brain appears to have been distinguished by great length of fibre and by a marked development in that region where the busts place the "bump" of firmness. The eyes, lips, and chin are decidedly those of a poet; and so is the curve from the ear downwards to the chin. It has struck me that, if he had lived, he would have written poetry not unlike that of Beddoes.

THE THEATRICAL LOUNGER.

We get our theatrical amusements by fits and starts. One has to trudge everywhere one week, and during another there is very little stirring. There has been nothing new since I wrote to you last, if I except a queer war panorama at the STANDARD, beautifully mounted, but not of much consequence from a dramatic point of view. There is a mania, of course, just now for war scenes, pictures of the war, war sentiment, and so on; and as Mr. Douglass, at his fine theatre, is able to make a good scenic show, the new piece called "Germans and French" is likely to tickle the appetites of the sightseers.

There has been an interesting revival of the famous old drama of "Black-Eyed Susan" at the HOLBORN, at which I have had the pleasure of assisting; and I was struck with the kindly, honest, and manly tone of the old play, as contrasted with our modern supercilious style of writing for the stage. There is, it is true, in Douglas Jerrold's play much exaggerated metaphor and a superabundance, perhaps, of gallery sentiment; but the play is a fine one, full of honest thought, and brimming over with sound situations. There are two situations in this play which, if introduced into a modern melodrama, would draw all London. I allude to the situation which culminates in the attack by William on Captain Crosstree, his superior officer, in defence of his wife's virtue, and the return situation of the preservation of William's life through the honest intervention of the repentant Captain. This last point is exceedingly good. William, as we all know, is sentenced to death. Nothing, apparently, can save him. At the last minute, however, when the fatal word is about to be given, up rushes Captain Crosstree, not merely with a reprieve, as in the old, vulgar, and hackneyed style, but to say that before the assault the Captain had interceded for William's discharge, which had been granted in London anterior to the assault. Therefore when the assault was committed William was not in reality a sailor, and the Captain was not his superior officer. This, then, is an excellent dramatic plot, quite worthy of a French dramatist. Mr. George Rignold, who plays William at the Holborn, does not profess to be a stage sailor. He does not make this line his particular business, as did Mr. T. P. Cooke, or Mr. Shepherd of the Surrey. He has not practised hornpipes all his life, nor is he learned in the art of singing nautical songs. And I cannot see that Mr. Rignold is the worse for it. He plays William in a manly and intelligent fashion, and has the audience with him all the time. His sister, Miss Jane Rignold, is a capital Susan, rising to thorough pathos in the parting scene. I have seen nothing so well done as this for some time. It was thoroughly unstaged, and unquestionably effective. When clever managers are looking up a good company they should not forget Miss Jane Rignold, who plays difficult characters with great care, and invariably with taste. Mr. F. Robson is quaint and "perky" as the little lawyer's clerk, and the company generally acts very fairly indeed. The audience was thoroughly impressed with the whole performance, and the old play, revived no doubt for a fancy, is likely to prove far more attractive than the management could have anticipated.

There is likely to be a lull in many quarters until Easter. The Adelphi and Princess's both close, to open after Lent—one with a drama by Mr. Halliday, and the other with a version of "Faust and Marguerite." The Court will give a new comedietta by Mr. Thayer Smith, in which Miss Litton and Mr. John Clayton will act; and a new Easter piece, by Mr. W. S. Gilbert. The Vaudeville will shortly give us Mr. Albery's new comedy, written expressly for the company; and a change will certainly be required at the St. James's before long. A new burlesque at the Strand is inevitable at Easter; but I think at most of the other theatres burlesque in its rampant form will be studiously tabooed.

The Matinees are in full swing. The Haymarket—for which Mr. Buckstone has signed another lease—has given one successful morning performance and promises another; while the Gaiety, the founder of the Saturday afternoon fun, promises in turn all the stars, past and present, one can think of. The enthusiasm about Mrs. Keeley is at its height, and those who miss the treat ought to be sorry for themselves.

BIRKBECK INSTITUTION.

If the members of the Birkbeck Elocution Class were to give a little more time and attention to the preparation of their dramatic entertainments, they would be able to contest the right of superiority with almost any amateur club in London. There are several very clever gentlemen in the Birkbeck troupe; but, I am sorry to say, there are many very careless ones. The representation of "The Heir at Law," given last Wednesday evening, was far from what it might—and should—have been. The piece had been insufficiently rehearsed, and the actors were but imperfectly acquainted with the text. As a natural result, pauses in the dialogue and stage waits were of frequent occurrence. Dr. Pangloss was played by Mr. W. Douglass. Mr. Douglass is a useful member of the class; but there is always a sameness in his impersonations. As Mr. Douglass's mouth is invariably full of plums, or lozenges, he is able to exercise but small control over his voice. Mr. E. Brown's Zekiel Homespun, was a clever piece of acting; and Mr. Pinero's Kenrick, though slightly overacted, was a meritorious performance. Messrs. Brown and Pinero were unquestionably the stars of the evening. Mr. Saunders, as Daniel Dowlas, was not happy. I fancy Mr. Saunders would be more successful in a tragic rôle. The small part of Henry Moreland was creditably sustained by Mr. Willoughby; and Mr. E. H. Cuthbert was a satisfactory Dick Dowlas. Mrs. Newbery was sufficiently funny as Deborah Dornier. Cicely Homespun was very prettily played by Miss Lizzy Dudley. Cicely was rather too ladylike, but I must not blame Miss Dudley for that. The hall was unpleasantly crowded.

WAR PICTURES AT THE CRYSTAL PALACE.—A very interesting collection of fifteen water-colour drawings by Mr. Walsh was exhibited, on Saturday, at the Crystal Palace. They represent different scenes in Paris during the siege of that capital. The artist appears to have made good use of his enforced seclusion from the outer world; and, however disagreeable this seclusion may have been to him, the public are the gainers by this. The different phases of siege life are brought more directly home to us by these drawings than it is possible they can be by mere words. "The Ambulance in the Church of St. Trinity after a Sortie" is terribly realistic. "New-Year's Day in 1871," with its groups of hungry, eager men and women waiting before a "Cantine Nationale" for their turn to receive their meagre rations, tells its own tale of sufferings endured. "The Coffin of the Dead Soldier" disappearing through the doorway of the Church of St. Severin, borne by four of his late comrades and followed by National Guards, is an original composition of high artistic merit; and the "Bretons Praying at the Statue of Our Lady" depicts one of those scenes of simple devotion which appear to have surprised the scoffing Parisians almost as much as the presence of the German armies outside their gates. Then there are four very picturesque scenes from the Quartier Latin—one of them portraying one of those siege butcher's shops respecting which we have heard so much. Besides their merit as giving a pictorial representation of life in Paris during the last six months, the drawings possess real artistic value. The groupings are excellent, and the subjects chosen with a true eye to effect. Mr. Walsh is especially strong in colour; but we would venture to suggest to him that even excellences may be exaggerated, and that he would do well in future to make his shadows rather more transparent. We trust that an opportunity will be given to the public to view these drawings, of which we are convinced they will avail themselves.

THE NATIONAL GALLERY.

SIR R. PEEL'S collection of pictures by old masters is not only the most important addition which has been made to the treasures of the National Gallery, but an event second only in interest to the foundation of the institution. Mr. Buxall's retention of office is signalled by the purchase, at a price considerably, we think, under their market value, of no fewer than seventy pictures, many having great historic fame, and all of them of unquestioned authenticity and quality. The price is to be, it is understood, about £70,000, or on the average of £1000 a picture—an average which conveys, on the whole, the clearest idea of the general value of this magnificent and, as it happens, singularly desirable, purchase. By means of the seventy paintings not fewer than twenty-one masters, some of whom rank below only the highest, are now represented in the national collection, where they were before unknown.

The most important item of the whole is Rubens's "Chapeau d'Espagne," commonly, but absurdly, called the "Chapeau de Paille." It was formerly styled in Belgium "Het Spaansche Hoedje," on account of its representing a lady of the Lunden family of Antwerp in a black Spanish beaver hat. Rubens prized this picture so highly that he did not part with it during life; at his decease it was in his collection, and on the death of his widow it became the property of the sitter's family, with whose heirs it remained, till, in 1817, one of them, M. Van Haveren, sold it to M. Stiers d'Artselaer, another of the family, for 60,000f. It was, in 1822, sold by auction at Antwerp to M. Nieuwenhuys, for about £3000. In the following year, after a vain attempt to induce George IV. to buy it, it was exhibited in Old Bond-street to great crowds of admirers. Soon after this the late Sir R. Peel gave, it is reported, £3500 for it. Another Rubens represents a bacchanalian scene. This was likewise one of the artist's reserved pictures. It has a high reputation for spirit of design, expression, and richness of colouring; and belonged successively to Cardinal Richelieu, the Regent of Orleans, Lucien Bonaparte, and others. Sir R. Peel bought it for £1100. There are likewise two Rembrandts, an admirable portrait and a landscape of noble quality; and a Vandyke, portrait of a young man.

Apart from the first-named picture, the smaller examples, by what are generally called late Dutch masters, supply not only the distinctive characteristic to the purchase, but filled a very considerable proportion of the gaps which hitherto remained in the national collection. By their means the English public gallery, already inferior to none in the selectness of its elements, is now equal to any among its fellows on the Continent in respect to its comprehensively representative position. By Terberg is "A Girl in a Yellow Jacket," seated, playing on a lute. This is among the most fortunate specimens of the painter's craft; it cost Sir R. Peel about £1000. By Gerard Dow is the famous "Old Woman at a Window buying a Hare of a Young Girl." This belonged to the Duc de Choiseul, the Prince de Conti, and Mr. Beckford, and cost Sir R. Peel about £1300. By Metsu we have "A Woman Singing," a very good specimen, which belonged to, among others, Prince Talleyrand; likewise by the same is "A Woman at a Harpsichord." Franz van Mieris appears by means of "A Woman Seated at a Window, Feeding a Parrot." By G. Netscher are three pictures—"A Girl Learning to Read," "Two Boys Blowing Bubbles," and "A Girl in a Velvet Jacket." There is a Slingelandt, a family picture. Eminent among the whole is a signed Jan Steen, "A Young Girl in a Yellow Stomacher and Blue Dress," seated at a harpsichord; her teacher and a boy with a lute are behind; this is one of the artist's most agreeable productions. By P. de Hooghe is a delightful "Woman and Child in a Vineyard," in sunlight; a woman stands in a doorway; this is dated 1658; and one of the best pictures of the master whose humour has but lately been represented in the National Gallery by the picture bought at the Demidoff sale. There is another De Hooghe among the Peel pictures, formerly the property of Count Pourtales, representing two gentlemen and a lady at a table. By G. Coques are the portraits of a family. By Teniers are three works—"An Old Peasant Caressing a Girl," "A Magician Appalled by the Spirits he has Invoked," and "The Four Seasons," represented by so many peasants. By A. van Ostade is "An Alchemist," a noteworthy picture. By J. van Ostade are two works; by P. Potter one, which cost 1200 gns. at Lord Gwydir's sale. By A. van de Velde are two; by K. Dujardin, two; by P. Wouvermans are six, including that which is known by Le Bas's engraving, styled "Halte d'Officiers"—the picture is now called "La Belle Laitière." By A. Cuyt are three works, including a noble "Group of Cows." By Wynants are two; by J. Ruysdael three, comprising the well-known "Waterfall" from the Bretano collection.

The most striking picture in the whole of this series is Hobbema's celebrated "View of the Village of Middleharnis," comprising a vista of a road and trees, so magical in its effectiveness, and so wonderfully illusive, that critics, who are not apt to be charmed by triumphs of this order, turn again and again to gaze at it. It is also a masterpiece of art of the kind. There are likewise, by Hobbema, "A Wooded Scene," "A Watermill," and "The Ruins of the Castle of Brederode"—four pictures which make the Peel Collection the richest in productions of this fine landscapist. Rembrandt's great pupil, Philip de Koningh, is represented by one of the most expansive of his magnificent perspectives of Dutch level landscape; Snyder, Hackaert, Moucheron, W. Vanderveelde the younger, in not fewer than eight pictures; Ludoph Backhuizen in two works. Van der Heyden and other painters are here. By Reynolds are portraits of himself, Admiral Keppel, Dr. Johnson, Mrs. Siddons (?), and of a "Girl feeding a Bird."

The following are names of painters represented in the purchase but not hitherto in the catalogue of the National Gallery:—Terberg, Metsu, Mieris, Netscher, Slingelandt, Jan Steen, G. Coques, A. van Ostade, J. van Ostade, P. Potter, K. Dujardin, A. van de Velde, P. Wouvermans, Wynants, De Koningh, Hackaert, and Moucheron.

These pictures will be placed in the National Gallery as soon as possible after the completion of the purchase, and our readers will be glad to learn that the trustees have already in hand, remaining unexpended from former grants of money, a very large portion of the sum required to be paid for them. It is probable that, in the first instance at least, the collection will be, so far as may be practicable, placed in a mass in two or more rooms at Trafalgar-square.—*Athenæum*.

In connection with Sir Robert's celebrated picture, the "Chapeau de Paille," a curious story was once told by the late Lord Cranworth in the House of Peers. His Lordship, in moving the second reading of the Copyhold Enfranchisement Bill, alluded to that strangest of all anomalies in English customs which passed under the name of heriot. This existed in very many manors, and by it, on the death of a person holding land subject to the custom, the lord might seize the best chattel of which the tenant died possessed. It was within the late Sir R. Peel's knowledge that the famous horse Smolensko, worth £2000 or £3000, was seized under heriot; and that when the first Lord Abinger, as Mr. Scarlett, was at the Bar, a false report of his death having been circulated, the first intimation which Mrs. Scarlett had of it was the seizure of three of the learned gentleman's best horses by the lord of the soil. Sir Robert, being the tenant of a manor to which a heriot attached, was in the greatest apprehension that if anything happened to him the picture above-mentioned might be taken; and, in order to free himself from that risk, he bought the manor of which the copyhold was held.

THE FRENCH INDEMNITY.—If the war indemnity France is to hand over to Germany were paid in gold pieces of 20f., and if these pieces were arranged in a straight line, they would reach from Paris to Marseilles, a distance of 512 kilometres. The weight of the sum in gold would be 1,612,900 kilograms, or nearly ten times the weight of the column in the Place Vendôme. If a man were to attempt to count out the number of francs (a by one, and if he were able to count four francs every second, he would still, working night and day without ceasing, have to spend 400 years before he could pay down the last piece.

LAST YEAR'S RAILWAY ACCIDENTS.

A LARGE amount of interesting and important matter is contained in Captain Tyler's general report to the Board of Trade on the railway accidents of last year, which has been issued this week. The total number of persons recorded at the Board of Trade as having been killed on railways during the year was 286, and the number of injured was 1239. Of these, ninety were killed and 1094 persons injured were passengers; and the remainder, 196 killed and 145 injured, were officers or servants of the railway companies, or trespassers, or from accidents at level crossings, or from miscellaneous causes. Of the passengers, sixty-six were killed and 1084 were injured from causes beyond their own control. The total number of passenger-journeys having been about 307,000,000, it follows that the proportion of passengers killed was in round numbers 1 to 3,110,000, and of passengers injured 1 to 281,000; and that the proportions of passengers killed and injured from causes beyond their own control were respectively 1 in 4,651,000, and 1 in 283,000. This was an increase on the average of the previous five years, in which the proportions were 1 to 13,000,000 killed, and 1 to 372,000 injured. Of the officers and servants of railway companies there have, in proportion to the total numbers employed, as nearly as they can be estimated—say 200,000—been killed 1 out of 1740, and injured 1 out of 1563; but accidents to servants do not appear, in many cases, to be reported by certain railway companies; and their numbers would, if the whole truth could be ascertained, be considerably increased.

The South-Eastern, having reference to its mileage and gross receipts, takes the lead among the no-accident companies; and the London, Chatham and Dover, as a metropolitan line, deserves also to be specially referred to. The London and North-Western is especially conspicuous among the many-accident companies; and it is right to add that, including all the accidents which have occurred on the railways of that company, and to engines or trains belonging to it upon other lines, it has, in one way or another, been concerned in nearly one-third of all the train accidents referred to. Of the remaining two-thirds of the accidents, the North-Eastern, Lancashire and Yorkshire, Caledonian and Midland Companies, with a joint mileage of 2377 miles, share, in different proportions, one half between them, while the other half is divided among the other companies, to be hereafter referred to in detail, with a total length of 6654 miles. These accidents have, as a rule, been most numerous, as will be observed, on those lines on which heavy goods and mineral traffic have been carried in combination with considerable passenger traffic, though the Great Western and Great Northern Companies are exceptional in showing fewer accidents in proportion to their mileage and receipts than other lines of heavy combined traffic. The three comparatively light accidents on the Great Western Railway were all connected with the want of improved signal and point arrangements. The three on the Great Northern Railway were the most serious from the failure of the axle of a foreign wagon, for which that company cannot be held responsible; and the other two, one from the failure of a tyre and the other from mistake of a signalman, combined with the want of an improvement in the apparatus. The defects of construction or working which have led to other accidents on particular lines, and with such combined traffic, will be best seen by a detailed examination of the various accidents, and the remarks which will be made upon them in the course of this report. But it is worthy of observation at the outset—though I do not wish to lay too much stress on the experience of a single year—that the South-Eastern and the London, Chatham, and Dover Railways, on which no accidents have required investigation, are worked throughout by telegraph block-systems, while the London and North-Western Railway has been worked for a short portion of its length only on a block-system.

In 122 train accidents Captain Tyler considers that there was "want of care or mistakes of officers or servants" in eighty-eight instances. In sixty instances "defective signal and point arrangements" were involved; and in forty-three "want of telegraph communication or of system for securing intervals of space between trains." A special section of the report is devoted to the London and North-Western accidents. "It is right," Captain Tyler remarks, "to draw attention to the fact that in some of these cases the material or the servants of other companies were in fault; but the general conclusion cannot, nevertheless, be avoided, that the system of working and the means and appliances for conducting the business of the company have not kept pace with the increase of the traffic. There has been a want of judicious expenditure, and the apparatus necessary to safety has not in many instances been provided."

Under the head of "Remedies Required," Captain Tyler makes fifteen suggestions, of which he places first—"Judicious selection, careful training, strict supervision, rigid discipline, and moderate hours of duty of employees, and especially of those on whom safety principally depends." In concluding this section of his report, Captain Tyler says:—

Many of these remedies involve improvements which have been gradually worked out and brought to comparative perfection within the last ten or fifteen years; and it is quite true and only fair towards the railway companies to bear in mind that, looking at railway management from a practical point of view, it is impossible that every new invention or improvement can, as soon as its efficiency has been tested or its merits proved, be at once adopted and brought into general use. Alterations of permanent way or of rolling stock can only be carried out by degrees; and improvements of system and working must also in many cases be gradually introduced. Differences of opinion may also exist as to what is right and desirable, or the contrary, on railway as well as on other subjects; and the theory, at all events, of railway investment is that the proprietors of stocks and shares should derive pecuniary profit from railway construction and working. But, making full allowance for all these considerations, it is impossible to overlook the fact that improvement on railways in this country has not progressed, in some respects, as fast as it ought to have done; or to assert that either the proprietors of the railways, or those who use them, have obtained or are receiving, in the return for the expenditure of such enormous sums of money, all the profit, all the safety, or all the convenience which they might fairly have expected. Joint-stock enterprise has its failings as well as its advantages, and joint-stock management is not without its dangers and difficulties.

ANOTHER OUTRAGE IN IRELAND.—As Mr. Charles Croftly, a justice of the peace, was proceeding home on Saturday from Castlebar, where he had been attending as a grand juror at a sittings, he was fired at while near his residence, ten miles from Castlebar, and it is feared, mortally wounded. The servant who accompanied him was also shot in the head, and is also reported dead. The assassin was concealed in a small grove. Four men were arrested on suspicion. Mr. Croftly and his servant were fired at last year, near Westport, but escaped. The only case assigned is that Mr. Croftly had had a litigation with some tenants.

STATISTICS OF THE JESUITS.—It appears from a statement lately published in the *Catholic Chronicle*, that at the beginning of the year 1850 the Jesuit body throughout the world was only a little in excess of 4000. Ten years afterwards they had increased to nearly 7000, and in the following decade of years nearly 2000 more were added to their number; and at the time of the last returns the members of the "Society of Jesus" are given as 8817. Out of these there are 2531 lay coadjutors, 2117 students, and 2069 priests; more than 2000 of the latter were out of the kingdom of Italy, scattered up and down the world, in Europe, Asia, Africa, America, and Australia; some acting as missionaries, and others engaged in the work of education, spiritual direction, and the preaching of retreats. In England, their headquarters are Stonyhurst College, near Blackburn, Lancashire; St. Bonaventure College, North Wales; Beaumont Lodge, near Windsor; the College at Reehampton; and the Church of the Immaculate Conception, Farm-street, Berkeley-square.

THE POSTAL REFORMS.—Mr. Monsell has not only removed a great postal grievance, but has accomplished a great postal reform. The changes he announced on Tuesday night will do more than even those of last year to increase the usefulness of the Post Office to the public. The sample post used to be a great convenience. By it all kinds of little parcels were sent, and the attempt to restrict it to bona fide samples was a needless limitation of its usefulness. The new Postmaster-General has more than restored the old convenience by abolishing the sample post altogether, and by giving us a new tariff for letters, as follows:—Not exceeding one ounce, 1d.; above one ounce, but not exceeding two ounces, 1½d.; above two ounces, but not exceeding four ounces, 2d.; above four ounces, but not exceeding six ounces, 2½d.; above six ounces, but not exceeding eight ounces, 3d.; above eight ounces, but not exceeding ten ounces, 3½d.; above ten ounces, but not exceeding twelve ounces, 4d. The book post and the halfpenny circular post will remain as at present; and though the penny is retained as the minimum for a letter, the weight it will carry is doubled, and the postage of letters above the ounce limit is reduced by one-half. A similar concession has been made in the charge for money orders. At present the smallest sum costs 2d. to send, and the fees run, 3d., 6d., 9d., and 1s. They will in future be, for sums under 10s., 1d.; for 10s. and under £1, 2d.; for £1 and under £2, 3d.; and so on, an additional penny fee for each pound sent.

Literature.

The Miracles of Our Lord. By GEORGE MACDONALD, Author of "Unspoken Sermons," &c. London: Strahan and Co.

The readers of this Journal have not now to hear for the first time of the high and exquisite qualities of Mr. MacDonald's writing. Some of these are unique, and all of them are combined or fused in a most remarkable manner. His height, his purity, his power of evenly reflecting upon the reader the moral and spiritual lights he has caught, are extraordinary. Nor do we think justice has been done either to his acuteness or to the transparent beauty of his style. It is impossible to take up a book of his without being delighted and made at least to admire the better life. Hence we can warmly commend this volume, believing that it contains within itself the solvents of at least some of its own errors. But, for all this, we find it unsatisfying, and we will take a few points as they arise, trusting to receive some indulgence on account of the extreme difficulty of dealing with the subject under the conditions imposed upon us.

If anybody will take the last few pages of Mr. Emerson's *Essay on Nature*—from the close of the quotation from George Herbert to the end of the chapter on "Prospects"—he will be struck, almost startled, by the similarity of thought and phrase which exists between that fine thinker and Mr. MacDonald. It is hard not to fancy that there has been an unconscious reminiscence on the part of the latter, in all that relates to man's dominion over nature, and the spiritual or moral conditions of that dominion. A large number of sentences from Emerson might be substituted for sentences in Mr. MacDonald, and not a reader would find anything amiss. This, by itself, is honourable (reminiscence or none) to both writers; and identical thoughts would naturally be expressed in similar language (reminiscence or none). But there are two points of difference. The first and least important is, that Mr. Emerson introduces his words as those of "my Orphic poet." This saves him from any suspicion of logical incoherence—a very desirable matter in this case! For a world of which man was master in proportion to his moral growth would be a world of all kinds of inconceivableness and contradictions. A house of man in which the spirit of man was master, to use a metaphor common to the two writers, would, in truth, be no house at all. Here Emerson escapes the toils by throwing the burden of the difficulties on his Orphic poet, and his hints of an inconceivable future for the self and the not-self. Mr. MacDonald brings the same set of notions into trouble through the juxtaposition in which the reader finds them. And here we come to the second point of difference. Emerson has broken, for good and all, with the whole Semitic tradition considered as authoritative. Mr. MacDonald has done nothing of the kind. And yet the reader is puzzled to know what position he assigns to it; and, indeed, puzzled to know how, upon his own principles, he can escape doing what Emerson has avowedly done. Insight is insight; but "you cannot build up a system of oracles on a basis of free criticism," or of criticism at all. Truths of vision and truths of demonstration not only cannot stand upon any historic or literary bases, they cannot be affected by them. If Mr. MacDonald says they can, we reply that there is "the missing link" in what he says; and we ask how can they? It is perfectly conceivable that it should be proved to-morrow that there never was such a person as Sir Isaac Newton; but that does not affect the law of gravitation; nor are we entitled to say that but for Sir Isaac Newton we should never have known of that law. Here we find ourselves confronted by Dr. Newman's distinction between a certitude and a certainty; and till we get the "missing link" we shall feel that Mr. MacDonald writes as if certainties could be got out of certitudes, or as if truths of vision could be referred back to truths of probability.

The difficulty is certainly not lessened by Mr. MacDonald's method of dealing with the literary part of the question. The most rigid theory of verbal inspiration that ever was framed would not be strong enough to justify his minute inferential criticisms of the letter. Yet we know that he holds no such theory. What theory, then, does he hold? Here, again, we are in the dark. The troubling of the pool of Bethesda is rejected by the common consent of good critics as spurious. Mr. MacDonald says not one word about this, but rejects it for another and obviously arbitrary reason—namely, that it would have made the operation of the healing partial in favour of the strong. But how about the sick man that could not get to the healer for "the press"? Why, upon this footing, should there not have been a sanatory pool in every man's own bed-room? Nay, even that would not meet the test by which Mr. MacDonald judges a point in the narrative which he need not have judged at all. In fact, nothing would meet this wilful method of reading the records. If "edification" was the object, what "edification" might have been got out of a totally different construction—out of forty different constructions! What an opportunity for the strong to help the weak lay embedded in the narrative as it stood! It has been said by Mr. Martineau that there is "a kind of interpretation which is the opprobrium of English theology; and whose problem is, not simply to gather an author's thoughts from his words, but from among all true thoughts to find the one that will sit the least uneasily under his words." Mr. MacDonald's problem, worked out however unconsciously to himself, appears to be to find the "thought" that will square most easily with his own way of looking at things. His comments on the narrative of the woman that touched the hem seem to us to miss, merely out of this generous wilfulness, the whole heart of the story (turning as it did upon the "levitical" position of the sufferer); and no account is taken of Matt. xiv. 36, Luke vi. 19, and Acts xix. 12. We have everywhere such turns of phrase as "I think," "I conjecture," "my impression is," mingled with the most authoritative dicta about things in which authority has not an inch of standing-place. Thus we are assured that in the narrative last mentioned, the vocative "Daughter," has not only its ordinary meaning, but something profound besides. The word "Son" too, we presume, in similar case? Pray, let us set to work to discover the bottomless significance of the vocative, "Damsel." Nor let us omit the personal pronouns. The result will undoubtedly be that anything will be everything and everything nothing; but we shall have supped full of "exquisite ideas." Only, those who obstinately adhere to "the degrading spirit of the commonplace" will still be uncomfortable!

The same class of persons will also be little comforted by some of the speculations contained in the book. For example, that the body of a sinless soul could not die except by violence. This is obviously short of the mark. The distinction between death by decay and death by violence is an admirable one for Dr. Farr or Dr. Lankester; but what on earth is it to the point at issue? Disintegration is disintegration, however it may set in; in other words, Mr. MacDonald's distinction is not final.

The conclusion we have long ago arrived at is that Mr. MacDonald, like the venerable teacher to whom he dedicates his book, is endeavouring, unconscious of the endeavour, to serve two masters; and with the usual results. A beautiful and beneficent spirit will work after its kind, and the book is both beautiful and beneficent. But, as to the class of ideas with which it is conversant,—when the upper blade of the forceps, typified by writing like this, meets the lower (and the blades are rapidly approaching), what then?

New Homes. Guide to the Australian Colonies and New Zealand. By THOMAS HENRY BRAIM, D.D., F.R.G.S., &c. London: Bull, Simmons, and Co.

To those who desire some information on the progress and condition of our Australian colonies in reference to emigration this will be an interesting volume. As Dr. Braim was during his long residence an Archdeacon in the diocese of Melbourne, and travelled in various parts of the colony among all classes of the people, he is entitled to speak with the confidence of personal knowledge,

while at the same time he had opportunities for obtaining official information not always within the reach of ordinary travellers. One of the most attractive qualities of the book is the broad and catholic spirit in which it is written, and another, the evident colonial point of view which it displays. The descriptions of various places throughout the country are clear and interesting, the anecdotes and personal reminiscences genial and amusing, and the information valuable and encouraging to intending emigrants, who are instructed very fully as to the methods of proceeding in reference to Government grants of land, the regulations for assisting emigration from this country, the climate, produce, and advantages to settlers of various districts, and a hundred other matters which are just now claiming attention from our labouring classes, for whom new homes in a larger, more hopeful, and equally free and enterprising England are within the scope of moderate energy and at the distance of a comparatively easy, safe, and orderly voyage to the other side of the world. Dr. Braim's book is illustrated with several capital engravings, and the type and binding are excellent—no small matters in a volume intended to be useful to a large number of readers who will be glad to borrow such a companion even on the voyage out, or may seek its aid in helping them "to think the matter over" before they make up their minds to venture.

The Queen's Maries: A Romance of Holyrood. Good for Nothing, or, All Down Hill. By G. J. WHYTE MELVILLE. New Editions. London: Longmans and Co.

The popularity of Mr. G. J. Whyte Melville as a story-teller, already well assured, is further attested by the constant reissue of his books in cheap editions, thus proving that the said books are in favour with novel-readers of all ranks in society. Exceptions may be taken, perhaps, to both the matter and the manner of Mr. Whyte Melville's productions; but there can be no mistake as to the attractiveness of the rattling, rollicking, pleasant narratives that emanate from his pen. In "The Queen's Maries" and "All Down Hill," new issues of each of which have just appeared, we have two of the author's best works, the Holyrood romance being, as we think, his happiest effort. It was, of course, suggested by the plaintive little poem bearing the same title in which the catalogue of the "Maries"—attendants, as most readers will know, upon Mary Stuart, the fair and unfortunate Queen of Scots—is thus given:—

Yestre'en the Queen had four Maries,
The day she'll hae but three—
There was Mary Beton, and Mary Seton,
And Mary Carmichael, and me.

And a very excellent picture of manners in Scotland in the troubled era of John Knox, Mr. Whyte Melville has drawn.

Messrs. Routledge have commenced a reissue of their handsome edition of Shakespeare, edited by Mr. H. Staunton and illustrated by Mr. John Gilbert. This circumstance indicates a pleasing trait in the popular literary taste, for, as the publishers are men who know what they are about, it shows that the great English dramatist is held in increasing estimation, seeing that his works sell. And as this edition, though admirably illustrated and well printed, is not a costly affair, and is published in monthly shilling parts, it is clear that it appeals to the million, and not to a select few—another very gratifying circumstance. For these reasons we hail this re-issue of "Routledge's Illustrated Shakespeare" with much satisfaction.

It is also worth noting that Messrs. Routledge have found it necessary to commence a reissue of their "Illustrated Natural History," by the Rev. J. G. Wood, M.A., F.L.S., &c.: a work likewise well and favourably known. Messrs. Routledge have done much to counteract the prevailing tendency to a perusal of trashy literature, by the publication of really good and wholesome books, and perhaps none of the many they have sent forth have been more useful than the two works above mentioned. We hope that a large sale will once more approve their enterprise and reward their labours.

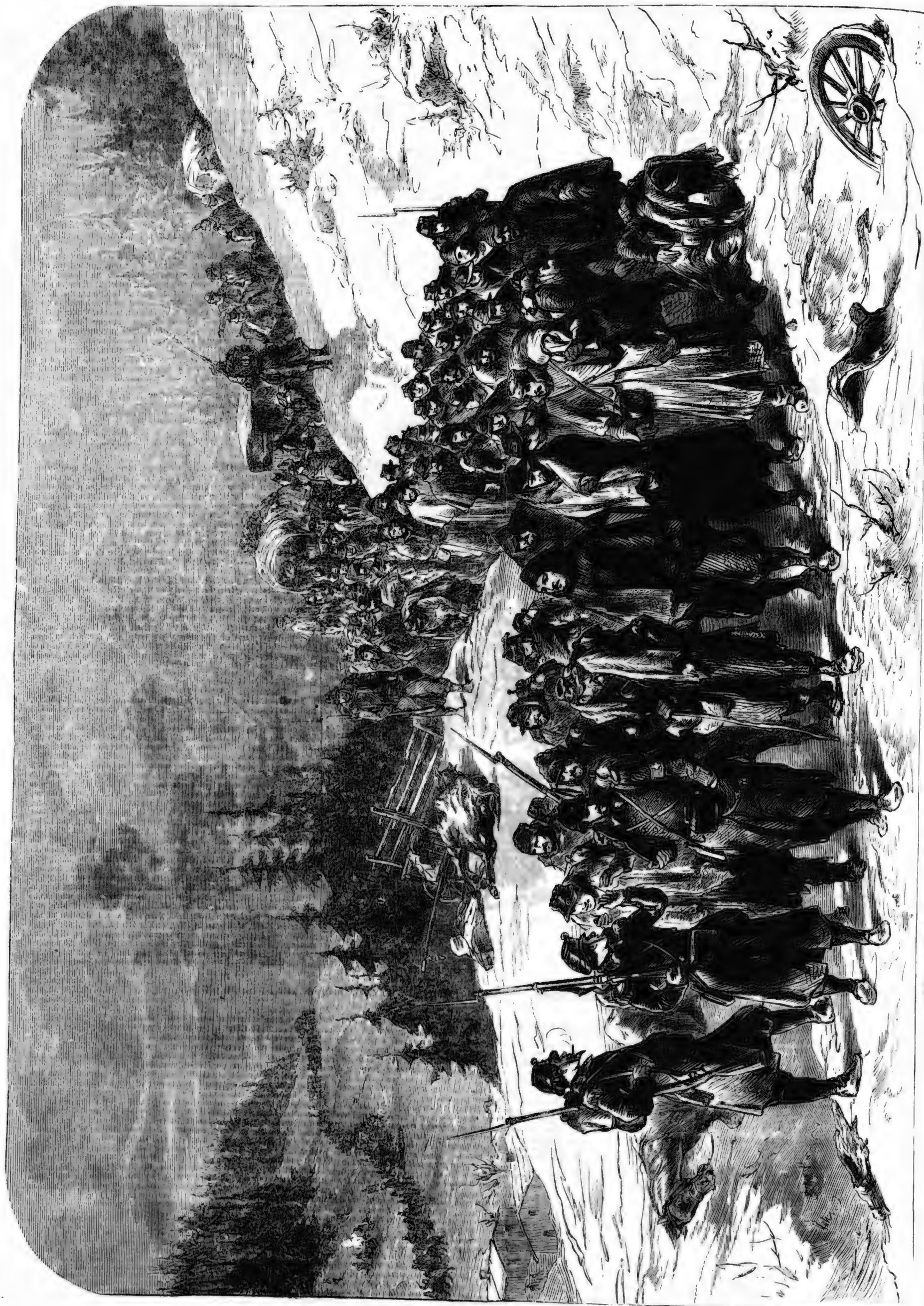
NEW PEERS.

THE Right Hon. Sir Henry Lytton Earle Bulwer, G.C.B., M.P., and Sir William Mansfield, K.C.B., will be shortly raised to the Peerage.

Sir Henry Lytton Earle Bulwer, G.C.B., M.P., was born in 1804, and is the son of General William Earle Bulwer, of Heydon Hall and Wood Dalling, Norfolk; and brother to the first Baron Lytton. He was educated at Harrow. In 1825 he joined the 1st Life Guards, very soon afterwards exchanged into the 68th Foot, and three years subsequently retired altogether from the Army. At various periods from the year 1827 to 1855, he was attached to diplomatic missions at Berlin, Vienna, the Hague, Paris, Brussels, Constantinople, St. Petersburg, Madrid, Florence, and Washington. From 1856 to 1858 he acted as Commissioner to investigate the state of the Principalities; and from the latter year to 1865 he was Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary at Constantinople, when he again retired with an additional pension. In Parliament he represented Wilton in 1830, Coventry in 1831-2, Marylebone from 1834 to 1837, and since 1868 he has sat for Tamworth. In 1848 he married a daughter of the first Baron Cowley. In the same year the right hon. gentleman was created a K.C.B., and three years later a G.C.B. The Right Hon. Sir William Rose Mansfield, who is the fifth son of the late Mr. John Mansfield, of Hertfordshire, and grandson of Sir James Mansfield, formerly Chief Justice of the Common Pleas, was born in 1819, and was educated at the Royal Military College, Sandhurst. He entered the Army in 1835, and distinguished himself greatly by his services in India at various critical periods, from 1845 to 1852. In 1855 he was appointed military adviser to the English Ambassador at Constantinople, and accompanied Lord Stratford de Redcliffe to the Crimea, with the rank of Brigadier-General. At the outbreak of the Indian mutiny he was nominated chief of the staff, with the local rank of Major-General, and served throughout the whole of the war, including the relief of Lucknow. For the services thus rendered he received the thanks of Parliament. He was appointed Commander-in-Chief of the Bombay Army in 1860, General Commander-in-Chief of the Army in India in 1865, and in 1870 Commander of the Forces in Ireland. He was created K.C.B. in 1858; G.C.S.I. in 1856, and G.C.B. in 1870. He married a daughter of Mr. Robert Fowell, of Norfolk, in 1854.

The elevation of Sir H. Bulwer and Sir W. Mansfield to the House of Lords increases the number of peers created since Mr. Gladstone came into power to eighteen. The representative character of the new peers will be best gathered by a glance at their names:—Lord Chancellor Hatherley, Lord Penzance, the Lord Chancellor of Ireland; Lord Lawrence, late Governor-General of India; Lord Lisgar, Governor-General of the Dominion of Canada; the Earl of Southesk and Lord Rollo have exchanged Scotch for English peerages; the Earl of Listowel, an Irish peer, sits as Baron Haro; Lords Acton, Castletown, Greville, Howard, Robertes, and Wolverton were formerly in the House of Commons; and the Marquis of Kildare and Lord Eliot have been called up in the lifetime of their fathers, the Duke of Leinster and the Earl of St. Germans.

A TRAFALGAR VETERAN.—On the 10th inst. there died, at Shapwick, Somersetshire, Christopher Damon, aged eighty-nine years and ten months, born at Fleet, near Weymouth. He fought at the Battle of Trafalgar, in the ship *Thunder*, one of Collingwood's line in that action. Till within a few days of his death he possessed all his faculties, and had thick black hair, sprinkled a little with grey. He has left a wife and family, and an elder son by a former wife. His widow has in her possession his Trafalgar medal, as also that of his late brother, Henry Damon, for Navarino, and that of her own son, Christopher Damon, for the Baltic—1851-5, both the latter having served in the Royal Navy. His youngest son William was born when he was seventy-three.



THE LATE WAR: SOLDIERS BELONGING TO BOURBON'S ARMY UNDER ESCORT OF SWISS TROOPS AFTER CROSSING THE FRONTIER.

SKETCHES OF THE LATE WAR.

Our war sketches this week relate to the two latest phases of the contest—the siege of Paris and the surrender of Bourbaki's army to the Swiss. Taking them in order we have, first,

A COUNCIL OF WAR AT VERSAILLES.

As our readers are aware, the Emperor-King had his headquarters while at Versailles, not in the palace—that was used as a hospital—but at the Préfecture; and here assembled the chief counsellors of his Majesty when any great military question was to be discussed. Such a council is that represented in our Engraving on page 164, at which the subject in debate was the bombardment of Paris. The King, of course, presided; the other members of the council being the Prince Imperial of Germany, the Crown Prince of Saxony, Count von Moltke, Count Bismarck, and General Blumenthal. It is not usual that the proceedings of such a council are reported, so we are unable to tell what took place; but, as it is generally believed that the future Hope of Germany was adverse to the bombardment, we may suppose that, as he stands there at the table, he is in the act of urging his views on the subject; while Von Moltke, on the King's right, is ready with those cool, calm, purely military arguments which, as events proved, carried the day. Wonder-

fully significant are the attitude and expression of Count Bismarck at the opposite end of the table. This is not a matter in which he is called upon to interfere; but he listens attentively to what is going on, ready, no doubt, to throw in a word as occasion may suggest. A curious scene this, altogether, considering where it occurred and whose bust looked down upon the conclave.

THE GERMANS ENTERING ST. DENIS.

When the famine-forced armistice was concluded, and the Paris forts were given up to the besiegers, the latter lost no time in taking possession of their conquests. St. Denis was at once thrown open to them, and the 4th German Army, that commanded by the Crown Prince of Saxony, marched in, accompanied by the Emperor-King and his suite. An immense crowd assembled in the principal square of the suburban town to witness the event; but, we may be sure, with no friendly feeling towards the intruders, and yet compelled, despite their aversion, to acknowledge that the men who had conquered the armies of France were not foes whom they could afford to despise. To stare, and strut, and scowl defiance was all the spectators dared venture upon; but for these manifestations the Germans, from Emperor to drummer, probably cared little. They had won, and had come to take possession; that was enough for them.

BOURBAKI'S DISASTER.

It is scarcely possible, even yet, to fully realise the full extent of the military disasters France has suffered since July, 1870. Over a dozen great battles lost, as many noted fortresses surrendered, and four great armies made prisoners—at Sedan, at Metz, in Paris, and on the Swiss frontier; the only consoling circumstance connected with the latter event being that it was not to enemies, but to friendly neutrals, that the soldiers of France gave up their arms; and in sadly miserable plight those soldiers were. Disorganised, hungry, almost naked, cold, many of them wounded, and some of them dying—a refuge from pursuit, shelter, food, and clothing were what they required, and happily these were furnished by the kindly Switzers to the utmost of their ability. The fate of Bourbaki's army, though better in one respect than that of the others, was worse in another—namely, that they had no real service to boast of, they had made but a poor fight (comparatively), and had been beaten by much inferior forces. Unlike their comrades of Sedan and Metz, they were not fresh from well-foughten fields; unlike those of Paris, they had not for weary months endured the hardships of a rigorous siege. They had made a bold dash, indeed, to reach and relieve Belfort, but they had been signally and seemingly easily foiled. Nor is it difficult, perhaps, to understand why all this was so. Composed of raw conscripts



SURRENDER OF BOURBAKI'S ARMY: DISARMING THE TROOPS AT VERRIERS, ON THE SWISS FRONTIER.

and of men from the army beaten at Orleans, undrilled, ill-organised, worse equipped, strangers to their commanders—most of them—and their commanders unknown to them, can we wonder that the troops of General Bourbaki failed to achieve the task appointed them, and that refuge in Switzerland and captivity in Germany were the alternatives the army had to choose between? Fortunately, Switzerland was reached, and, disarmed at the frontier, the men were marched off under escort to the interior, and there interned until peace was concluded, and they were once more free to return to France.

PEACE NOTES FROM GERMANY.

Bonn, March 14.

Few reasonable men in England, so far as I can learn, believe in the possibility of any quarrel between that country and Germany; yet it is possible enough that a bitter feeling, second only in unpleasantness to an actual quarrel, may be fostered into chronic existence without the consent, and, indeed, even to the sorrow, of the two parties most concerned—the English and the German nations. To others must fall the task of feeling the pulse of Britain on the subject. I would crave permission to set forth what seems to me to be the real feeling of German citizenship as regards the alleged aggressive tendency of Germany, superinduced by her acknowledged military supremacy and her successes in the war which has just terminated.

First let me speak of the army. You don't keep men in the field for some eight months, and win ever so many battles, without making professional fighting animals of at least some of them. Officers, for instance, to whom piping times of peace bring monotony, sluggish promotion, and the routine of garrison duty, lust

for continuous war with somebody, no matter whom. I venture to say that if England declared war to-morrow with any State in the known world, without the semblance of a provocation, the officers of the British army would hail the announcement with joy. Wherefore, when I heard in the Officer-Casino in Gonesse only the other day a knot of young guardsmen praying for more fighting; and when one lad turned to me, and, clinking glasses, benignantly announced that the Queen Elizabeth regiment would before two years were over be besieging Windsor Castle (which he evidently took to be our strongest fortress), I did not write home to you that the German army was eager for a quarrel with England; but only asked my young friend whether he had learned to swim. I had only to go outside into the road, or up to the battery, or on to the outposts to find how the men of the army were sighing and longing for peace. They would do their duty to the last—follow my fire-eating youngster to the cannon's mouth; but they were hungry for home with an exceeding great hunger, and candidly owned that they wanted no more war in this their generation. For, whereas young Von Fernrich was a professional soldier, they were citizens made soldiers by force of circumstances and longing to return to their citizenship. Depend upon it that so long as Germany wishes for peace she will never be embarrassed by the clamours of her army for war.

What say the citizens then: the *patries conscrits* who sat at home when the young men went to the war; the women of the nation, who, in a free and cultivated people such as the Germans, exercise so great an influence over the national bias and impulses? There seems to me a surprisingly universal unanimity of conviction that Germany must be peaceful in the future, come what may, save absolute loss of honour. Flags are flying, crowds are cheering as the military train goes by; but the people is shudder-

ing and quivering again under the price of the victory. Wherever I go, I find under the pride and the bursts of gladness, stimulated by such a sight, a deep feeling of melancholy. The mourning warehouses in Cologne and Bonn must have driven a fine trade this winter. The streets swarm with men on crutches. I met a pleasant group in the Rheingasse this forenoon—four of them—and there were three capable legs among the four. They bore the number of a regiment that I knew before Metz, and which afterwards went to the north; and we had a little chat together. Private soldiers all the four, mark you; but let me give you their professions, because it is of importance to my argument. One was the son of a master tailor; the second was the tender of a steam-engine in a factory; the third had been the apprentice of an emigration agent; and the fourth had had a shop of his own, which his absence at the war had ruined and shut up. Hard, is it not, to lose your leg and your living at one coup even if it be for the Fatherland. It is owing to the presence—and, according to her military constitution, the inevitable presence—of such men in her ranks that Germany is perforce a country averse from war. It is because so many of this class are now no longer in her ranks, because they are rotting under the soil of French battle-fields, that she shudders and blanches at the name of war, even while she cheers her heroes. It is because that she feels that the war has cost her so much of her life blood, of the real bone and sinew of her stirring business population, not of mere waste cannon fodder, that she has exacted terms so hard from France—terms that, as she reckons, make it impossible that France in sanity will ever again disturb the peace of the Fatherland.

Experience has convinced me of the inutility of "interviewing." You set a man at once to weighing his words, and he

either gammons you intentionally, buncomises, or is reticent, so as to be of no service. Everybody who knows Bonn knows the Rheineck, and everybody who knows the Rheineck knows the nightly meeting of responsible citizens over the bottle of Rhine wine. Last night I sat down at the end of the long table, with the *Cologne Gazette* in my hand, as a make-belief, and, keeping my mouth shut, kept my ears open. Of course, there was not a word save about the war and matters thereabout. A corpulent gentleman was great on tactics; and, while he was rather depreciatory of the Duke of Mecklenburg, expressed profound admiration for Von Werder. But what chiefly struck me was the conversation as to the terms of the peace. A quiet, sagacious person said plainly he thought the money indemnity was too great. It was not an indemnity, he said, it was a premium on war. Another struck in with the rejoinder that the indemnity was exacted, not alone for the money charges which the war had cost the Germans, but for the cost of life and blood, as well as the stagnation of profitable industry which it had caused. The quiet man sighed as he replied that there were losses for which no money indemnity could compensate. "Do you think," said he, "I reckoned my poor dear Carl by the milliard?" On the territorial annexation all were united. It was a necessary preservative of peace for Germany. But for this necessity, Metz was a nuisance rather than otherwise. One gentleman was not contradicted when he alleged that if Germany could have got a guarantee against any future aggressiveness on the part of France, she would not have demanded an inch of territory—not even Alsace. "What do you mean by a guarantee, though?" asked his neighbour. "A French guarantee?" "Gott bewahre!" was the emphatic response. "Thiers's guarantee to-day might be kicked to the devil in two years by an Orleanist, the weak President of a red-hot Republic; no, I mean a European guarantee." Then a professor of the University made an observation which I quote simply as an indication of the horror with which the possibility of a future war is regarded. "Sooner," said he, "than in ten or twelve years time my sons should run the chance of being maimed and killed in a war with France, I would gladly see now every village in France burnt, every deed done against her, even to actual extermination of her population, that would guarantee us against the possibility of our peace ever again being disturbed by her." It is strange how intense can be a craving for peace that can prompt to a contingent blood-thirstiness so uncompromising as this.—*Correspondent of Daily News.*

MUSIC.

It is specially unfortunate just now that operatic prospectuses are untrustworthy, because the promises made in Mr. Gye's recent announcement are of the most attractive kind. The director of the Italian Opera has engaged a company exceptional in strength; and the only question is how he will contrive to keep so many artists before the public. It is his business to answer the question; ours to hope that he may succeed in the task. As *prime donne*, Mr. Gye proposes to bring forward Mesdames Patti, Lucra, Miolan-Carvalho, Sessi, and Parepa-Rosa; with Mesdames Vanzini, Corsi, Dell'Anese, Locatelli, &c., as *seconde donne*. His contraltos are but two in number—Madame Demerice-Lablache and Mdlle. Scalchi; but the tenors include Signori Mario, Mongini, Bettini, and Naudin; the baritones, M. Faure, Signor Graziani, and Signor Cotogni; the basses, Signori Baggiolo, Ciampi, and Capponi. Here are enough, in all conscience, to give the season plentiful variety of a personal sort; and the result should, moreover, be an *ensemble* of rare perfection. The conductors are Signor Vianesi and Signor Beviniani, whose joint action this year, as last, compels us to believe that a dual government of an orchestra works well. Without the example supplied at Covent Garden, we should have thought quite the contrary.

Mr. Gye promises several important additions to his already large repertory, and has set down for performance the following works:—Rossini's "La Donna del Lago," Halévy's "La Juive," Cimarosa's "Il Matrimonio Segreto," and "Le Astuzie Femminili," Auber's "Les Diamans de la Couronne," and Rossini's "Otello." As "a burnt child dreads the fire," so, having been deceived by prospectuses time and again, the public will look upon these works as possible rather than probable. Most likely, however, two or three of them will have a hearing during the season, and curious amateurs must learn to be satisfied with the limited prospect. "Lucia" opens the campaign on Tuesday week, the principal characters in Donizetti's opera being taken by Mdlle. Sessi and Signor Mongini.

Beyond an advertised promise of a prospectus, Mr. Mapleson has hitherto made no sign. Doubtless he will soon show with what forces and on what principle he means to carry on the war against his ancient opponent and late ally at Covent Garden.

English amateurs care little about new works, and sometimes their want of curiosity saves them from inflictions hard to bear. Sometimes, also, they lose a treat—such as, for example, Dr. Ferdinand Hiller's recital of chamber music, given in the Hanover-square Rooms on Friday week. Very few persons attended, although the eminent Cologne professor was assisted by Madame Schumann, Herr Joachim, and Signor Piatti; but those who were present had an evening of thorough enjoyment. The programme was made up entirely from Dr. Hiller's works; and included an "Operetta Without Words" (pianoforte duet), a *suite de pieces*, a *duetto appassionato* for piano and violin, and a serenade for the same instruments, with violoncello. Each of these compositions is remarkable for thoughtfulness, united to free and elaborately-detailed expression. Dr. Hiller himself took a principal part in their performance, and by his brilliant execution deserved all the applause of which those present were liberal.

At the Crystal Palace, last Saturday, Herr Joachim gave Beethoven's violin concerto to a large audience, exciting an immense amount of enthusiasm both in it and in two movements by Sebastian Bach. Other items of a first-rate programme were a symphony in E flat by Haydn, played to perfection under Mr. Mann's guidance; and the vocal pieces which served to show the ability of Madame Cora de Vohrstedt and Mdlle. Madigan.

Mozart's quintet in C minor and a quartet by Haydn (op. 62) were comparative novelties in the last Monday Popular programme. Both gave unqualified satisfaction; and the quartet especially delighted those who, this season, have felt aggrieved at the neglect shown to its genial composer. The vocalist was Mr. Santley, who never sang better; and the pianist was Madame Schumann, who never played the "Waldstein" sonata with more vigour and intelligence.

A cantata, entitled "St. Patrick," by Professor Glover, of Dublin, was produced in St. George's Hall, on Wednesday evening, under the composer's own direction, but to a somewhat scanty audience. The principal vocalists included Miss Glover, Mr. Vernon Rigby, Herr Stepan, &c., all of whom, as well as the less important executants, had an uphill task to perform. Professor Glover would, we think, have done better had he kept "St. Patrick" in his desk; or, at all events, had he brought it out among the sympathising inhabitants of the "sister isle."

The Oratorio Concert given in St. James's Hall, on Wednesday evening, was very interesting. Its programme comprised Dr. Hiller's cantata, "Nala and Damayanti," written for the Birmingham Festival, and noticed by us at the time. Given admirably well—the solos by Miss Wynne, Mr. Cummings, and Mr. Santley—and conducted by Dr. Hiller in person, it had every opportunity of a good effect; but the music, though sometimes pleasing and always clever, is hard both to sing and hear; for which reason little impression seemed to be made. The balance of the evening's scheme consisted of some works by M. Gounod—his new song, "There is a green hill far away" (Mr. Santley); a new quartet, "O Salutaris Hostia;" and a "De Profundis;" the last being a somewhat important work, which we shall notice under the head of "Reviews." M. Gounod himself conducted, and was cheered to the echo at the close of his psalm. One of Handel's "Chandos Anthems" ended a concert of remarkable interest and attraction.

HER MAJESTY'S SHIP SULTAN.

HER Majesty's broadside ironclad frigate *Sultan*, which report names as the intended flagship for the Admiral Commanding-in-Chief the Channel Squadron, was "inclined" with iron ballast in the steam-basin of Portsmouth Dockyard, on Friday week, to obtain the necessary data upon which to calculate her angles of increasing and decreasing stability when at sea; and last Saturday she was placed in dock to have her hull cleansed and repainted below the water line, and valves examined preparatory to entering upon her speed trials over the measured mile in Stokes Bay, and her six hours' trial of continuous steaming off in the Channel. For inclining the ship thirty tons of pig-iron ballast were placed on each side of the upper deck (as nearly as possible over the midship section) in two parallel lines, each line extending over a length of 40 ft., and at 20 ft. distance from the centre line of the ship. Mr. Crosland, of the Constructive Council at the Admiralty, conducted the experiment. With ballast moved over from starboard, and added to that on the port side, the ship listed over to port 6 deg., and afterwards, with the ballast moved over to the starboard side of the deck, the ship listed over to starboard 6½ deg. These figures furnish simply the basis upon which, by a long and complicated manipulation of figures, the angles of the ship's stability or instability will have to be established. The *Sultan* is an improved *Hercules*. She stands first of all the broadside ironclads of the British Navy, as carrying the heaviest armament, the heaviest armour, and it is anticipated she will have the greatest speed of any vessel of her class. The *Sultan*, like all others of our heavily-armoured ironclads, is but partially armoured-plated, and those parts of the hull exposed to shot and shell above water that are without any armour-plating very greatly exceed, in their superficial area, those other parts that are protected by armour-plating. If reference is made to the work on "Our Ironclad Ships," by the late Chief Constructor of the Navy, some inaccuracies will be found there, as well as in the pages of the Admiralty *Navy List*, in references made to the armour of our ironclads. The *Sultan*'s armour, in thickness, Mr. Reed, at page 32 of his book, describes as follows:—"On belt (at the water-line), 9 in.; over gun-slides, 8 in.; on sides generally, 6 in." A reference to the figures given further on and representing the actual thicknesses of the ship's armour, will show that Mr. Reed has fallen into the usual official error of giving the maximum of the plating as the plating of the whole. The uninitiated reader, who is liable to be deceived by official navy-lists' general description of "armour-plated," would certainly understand from Mr. Reed's description that the *Sultan*'s belt was 9 in. in thickness round the ship at the water-line, and that the least protected parts of the ship's sides were plated with 6-in. armour; but it is not so. The dimensions of the *Sultan* are as nearly as possible the same as those of the *Hercules*—i.e., length between perpendiculars, 325 ft.; breadth, extreme, 59 ft.; depth in hold, 21 ft.; burden in tons, 5226 5-94; proportion of length to breadth, 5·5.

On each side of the *Sultan*'s hull the armour-plating is disposed as follows:—Over a distance of 190 ft. amidships there is bolted one strake of 9-in. plating, and parallel with this strake, but below the water-line, there is a strake of 6-in. plating. Forward of the 190 ft. of 9-in. plating the armour plates decrease gradually in thickness until they meet at the stem 6 in. in thickness, and aft of the 190 ft. until they are reduced to 5 ft. in thickness beneath the counter and round the stern. Forward of the 190 ft. of the 6-in. plating the remaining plating of the strake is gradually reduced to 3½ in. thickness at the stem, and aft to 3 in. under the counter and round the stern. Above the central portion of the 9-in. plating of the belt, and extending to the upper deck for the length of the main-deck battery (about 90 ft.) the sides of the ship are plated with 6-in. armour, except one strake of 8-in. plating, which covers the gun-pivots and gun-slides of the battery. This plating is pierced on each side with five gun ports, the forward ones being "recessed." Twelve-inch backing is given to the 6-in. plating on the ship's sides, the thickness of the backing being reduced as the plates increase in thickness. The armoured bulkheads at the fore and after end of the main-deck battery are built up across the ship's deck of 5-in. plates on 10-in. backing. Above the main-deck battery is a central or upper-deck battery, built across the upper deck in elliptical form. The side walls of this battery, where they cross the upper deck, are clothed with 5-in. plating; but the semicircular ends, which project about 60 ft. beyond the ship's side, carry 6-in. armour. Ten-inch backing is fixed to all the plates. At the bows of the ship, from the water-line belt up to the fore-castle deck, is built athwartships an armoured bulkhead, carrying 6-in. plates on 10-in. backing, and pierced with two gunports for bow fire. Bolts of 3 in. diameter hold the 9-in. plating, 2½ in. diameter hold the 5-in. and 6-in. plates, and 2½ in. the lesser thicknesses. The main-deck battery of the ship is 87 ft. in length, and has mounted on each side, on Captain R. Scott's admirable carriages and slides, four 18-ton 10 in. muzzle-loading rifled guns. These guns have a range of fire of 35 deg. each side of the beam. The forward gun on each side through the recessed port has a range within 15 deg. of the ship's line of keel. The upper-deck central battery carries, at each of its projecting ends, one 12-ton 9-in. muzzle-loading gun. The ends are each pierced with two gun-ports, one looking out on the broadside, and the other across the ship's stern. From the broadside port the gun has a range of fire to within 37 deg. of the keel forward; and through the after port—the ship's sides aft rounding in sharply, and hammock nettings and mizen rigging being set well inboard—a fire is obtained from 4 deg. across the keel.

The two 12-ton guns under the fore-castle fire from 4 deg. across the keel forward to within 42 deg. of the beam athwartships.

Of course all these calculations of ranges of fire have to be corrected by actual practice; and, as the semicircular ends of the upper-deck battery project its flat under-surface immediately over the two after gun-ports of the main-deck battery, it remains yet to be ascertained how far the 18-ton guns can be used simultaneously in such positions with battery charges in quick firing. The appearance of the main-deck battery, with its four monster guns mounted on each side, is very imposing. The guns stand apart at a distance of 18 ft. 6 in., from centre to centre of the ports. The height between decks in the battery, from the deck on which the guns are mounted, to the under part of the rolled iron beams carrying the upper deck, is 8 ft. The entrance to the battery from the main-deck, forward and aft, is by 30-in. wide swing doors, or rather armour-plates of 5 in. thickness hung on massive hinges. This battery is the citadel of the ship, and contains nothing but the guns, their projectiles, and fighting gear. In available space for working the guns it is very superior to the main-deck battery of the *Hercules*. The foremost recessed gunports, however, although they give exceptional range of fire to the guns there, open all the guns on that side to an enfilade from every shot or shell from the enemy that may enter it, and also offer a prominent mark to the enemy's gunners. The *Hercules* is doubly faulty in this respect, as she has recessed ports at the after end of her battery, and the *Sultan* has not. The after fire of the latter ship is confined to the two guns in the projecting ends of her upper-deck battery.

The accommodation for the officers in the unarmoured portion of the ship's hull aft of the main-deck battery has all that space, light, ventilation, and general luxuriousness of quarters for a sea-going ironclad that is such a marked feature with all our latest ironclads. The quarters for the men forward of the battery, there also in the unarmoured portion of the hull, are likewise very good, although not perhaps quite so comfortable as on the lower deck of a wooden-built unarmoured sailing-frigate of the old *Vernon* type, or of the *Glasgow* type of the present day. The introduction of ironclads banished from the Navy the seamen's lower deck. Underneath the engine and boiler rooms extends the double bottom of the ship, measuring 204 ft. in length, and composed of twenty water-tight compartments, ten on each side of the keel. The average depth of these compartments is 39 in. We have of late, by the too liberal application of the double-bottom principle to our ironclads, raised the lower weights

carried by the ships much too high, having regard to the stability of the ship. The partial filling of these compartments with cement, &c., has been the natural consequence, in correction of this error, and the *Sultan* has had placed in the compartments of her double bottom for this purpose 85 tons of Portland cement, mixed with 250 tons of scrap wrought iron. This measure, of course, adds to the total weight of the ship, increases her draught of water to the extent due to the increased weight, and will proportionately reduce her speed from the originally estimated rate.

ROYAL NATIONAL LIFE-BOAT INSTITUTION.

THE annual general meeting of the friends and supporters of this institution was held, on Tuesday last, at the London Tavern—the Duke of Northumberland in the chair. The meeting was influentially and numerously attended. After some few introductory remarks, the noble chairman, alluding to some of the salient points in the report, which elicited much applause, called on Mr. Richard Lewis, the secretary of the institution, who then read the annual report. It stated that, in reference to the funds, a considerable diminution had occurred in the contributions of the year. The committee, however, felt sure that that fact need not be attributed to any falling off in the sympathy and interest of the public in the work of saving lives from shipwreck, but was rather to be accounted for by the urgent demand for aid to the numberless victims of the fearful struggle which during the latter months of the year was raging between two neighbouring nations on the continent of Europe. Since the last report fourteen new life-boats had been placed on the coast. New transporting-carriages and boat-houses had likewise been provided for many of the boats. The institution now possesses 228 life-boats on the coasts of the United Kingdom and the Channel Islands. During the past year those boats had rescued 513 persons from shipwrecks, nearly all of whom had been saved under circumstances which would have precluded their rescue by any ordinary description of boat; and although many of those services were of a most difficult and dangerous character, yet they were performed without serious accident to any of the life-boats, and without the loss of a single man amongst those by whom the boats were worked. In addition, no less than twenty-one ships had been saved from destruction by the life-boats. The number of lives lost by shipwrecks on our coasts during the year 1870 is stated by the returns made to the Board of Trade to be 791. Attention was called to the continued efforts of that department in maintaining and extending the rocket apparatus on the coasts of the United Kingdom, which contributes every year, under the zealous management of the officers and men of the coast-guard service, to the rescue of hundreds of persons from shipwreck at places where, for the most part, life-boats could not be made available. The cordial co-operation of the Admiralty and the Board of Trade, of the officers and men of the coastguard service, of the local branch committees, and of our coast boatmen and fishermen, was acknowledged. The number of lives saved during the forty-seven years from the establishment of the institution in 1824 to the end of the year 1870, either by its life-boats or by special exertions for which it had granted rewards, was 19,861. This large number (close upon 20,000 persons) represents the prevention of an incalculable amount of suffering, not only to the persons immediately concerned, but to their families and friends. In addition to the 513 lives and twenty-one vessels saved exclusively by the life-boats of the institution, 271 lives were rescued last year by fishing-boats and other means on the coasts and outlying banks of the United Kingdom. For these services the institution had granted as rewards eleven silver medals, fourteen votes of thanks inscribed on vellum, and £2394 in cash. Since the formation of the society it had expended on life-boat establishments and other means for saving life from shipwrecks, £267,000, and voted ninety gold and 821 silver medals for saving life, besides pecuniary rewards to the amount of £34,352. The amount of receipts during the year 1870 had been £25,711 16s. 4d., and of that sum £1280 4s. 3d. were special gifts to defray the cost of ten life-boats. The expenditure of the society, including liabilities, amounted to £28,747 10s. 4d. Twenty-four legacies of various amounts had been bequeathed to the institution during the past twelve months.

The report having been moved and unanimously adopted, resolutions in furtherance of the objects of the institution were proposed and seconded by the Earl of Devon; Sir Robert Peel, Bart., M.P.; the Earl of Courtown; Admiral of the Fleet Sir George Sartorius; Earl Percy, M.P.; Lord Garlies, M.P.; Sir John Heron Maxwell, Bart.; Admiral Evans; Mr. Thomas Chapman; the Rev. E. Hewlett, M.A.; and Sir Edward Perrott, Bart., and the proceedings terminated.

THE PEACE NEGOTIATORS.—The resuscitated *Galignani* gives the following particulars concerning the personages appointed to discuss, on the French side, the definitive Treaty of Peace:—"Baron Bunde, the youngest of the four, was for a long time First Secretary at the French Embassy in London, under Prince de la Tour d'Auvergne. General Callie is evidently designated for that part of the arrangement which concerns the marking out of the new frontier line. He has already had considerable experience in such matters, and was for several years president of the Commission for tracing the boundary line between France and Spain. M. de Goulard, a personal friend of M. Thiers, is a member of the Council-General of the Gard, and would not, the belief is, be opposed to a Legation restoration. He has made special studies of some of the delicate questions which are likely to be discussed in the course of the negotiations. M. Deledercq has written works on international law and finance."

THE UNIVERSITY BOAT RACE.—The Cambridge crew arrived at Putney on Wednesday, and took up their quarters at the usual abode, the 8 and Garter Hotel. About five o'clock in the afternoon they embarked in their last year's boat and paddled down to Wandsworth against the first of the flood tide, and ordered their new boat, built by J. H. Clasper, to be launched. While the new boat was being got ready, they went down the river nearly to Price's factory, and then, turning round, paddled back to Clasper's boat-house. Here they embarked in their new boat, which appeared to carry them well, and paddled down stream to Battersea church, where they turned, and rowed on up to the Leander Club Boat-house at Putney, their old boat being rowed up home for them. Being the first occasion of trying their new racing-boat, it will be no matter of surprise that they were somewhat unsteady in her. Their rowing, too, could not fairly be judged, owing to the circumstances just mentioned. As a crew, they seemed to be very well together, and looked a nicely-sized lot of men in the boat. The race takes place on the 1st proximo.

AGRICULTURAL WAGES IN SCOTLAND.—The earnings of Scotch agricultural labourers have increased very much in the last twenty-five years—probably one third. Men are hired by the year or half-year, and generally housed upon the farm. The farm kitchen system still prevails in some counties, but has generally given way to the cottage for the married men, the unmarried being lodged in hostels—that is to say, buildings on the farm. Mr. Caley, assistant commissioner for the principal agricultural counties in the east of Scotland, under the Children's Employment (in Agriculture) Commission, states that in the Border counties a hind, or ploughman, receives only £5 a year in money, the rest of his wages consisting of a cottage and garden rent-free, the keep of a cow, carriage of fuel, potato ground, and certain allowances of oats or oatmeal, barley, and peas. In Perthshire, instead of the cow's keep, a Scotch pint of new milk is given daily, the grain payments are reduced to an allowance of oatmeal, and the money wage is increased to £20. Formerly hinds' cows were common enough in West and Mid Lothian; but they are disappearing, if they may not say they have disappeared; and elsewhere where cows are still the rule there are signs that the hind may soon lose title, to his family, the most important item in his list of payments in kind. Mr. Caley states that in his extensive district the married ploughman, hired by the year or half-year, receives wages in money and in kind equal to about 15s. a week; the unmarried ploughman, similarly hired and paid, about 14s.; the ordinary labourer, hired by the week, 1s. 12s. The Scotch labourer has the means of saving money while unmarried; and, in fact, a Scotch couple very commonly when they marry have something like £4½ equally contributed by the man and the woman. As soon as the elder children have received what the hind considers a sufficient education, the position of the family is one of comparative ease. Under the family system of the Lothians and Border district, with its accompanying family purse, incomes of from £75 to £100 a year coming into a hind's cottage are by no means uncommon. In West and Mid Lothian a married ploughman can command the following wages and allowances:—Money, £26 a year; cottage and garden rent-free; oatmeal, 65 stone; potatoes, 16 cwt.; carriage of five tons of fuel; harvest food. Women are paid 14s. a day for ten hours' work, except in harvest, when they receive 2s. a day and three meals, or as high as 3s. a day without food.

THE MONT DE PIÉTÉ, PARIS.

It was announced in Paris, the other day, that the representatives of that city of the Lord Mayor's Fund for the relief of distress in France had determined to release the tools and other necessities pledged by the poor with the Mont de Piété during the siege. This proposal was received with great satisfaction, and in regard to it the *Times* correspondent says:—"The admirable idea of furnishing the poor people of Paris, who in the days of their extremity had been obliged to pawn the means of earning their livelihood, with the tools which are now stacked in the Mont de Piété, is due to Mr. Marshall, one of the committee for the distribution of the English Charitable Fund, and possesses this special advantage, that it will not merely relieve the material condition of thousands of families, but produce a political effect of the utmost importance, and deprive the working class of the complaint which the Radical prints have already suggested that they should make against the operation of the rules by which the Mont de Piété is regulated. The fact that the State is the universal pawnbroker in France, that a certain amount of red tape is incidental to an establishment of such gigantic proportions, and that unforeseen exigencies have arisen in consequence of the siege, for which its rules had not provided, has given a certain colour to these complaints. At the same time, as the Mont de Piété is conducted entirely on capital borrowed from other State institutions, and as the financial embarrassment under which Paris is suffering extends everywhere, there are pecuniary reasons why it is very difficult now for the Government to relax its rules and afford special privileges and facilities to those who have pawned their goods, without running the risk of absolute insolvency. During the siege no one was allowed to borrow more than 50*fr.* on any article, no matter what its value might be. In spite of this, the pressure for money was so great that the store-rooms of the Mont de Piété became encumbered with articles, which 150,000 persons of all classes brought and pledged. I made a most interesting inspection of these immense store-rooms of private property a few days ago, and walked through labyrinths of stored jewellery, each little box coloured and numbered according to its year, all the even numbers indicating one year, and the odd numbers another. Here were no fewer than 100,000 watches and 25,000 clocks. There were diamond necklaces and bracelets of fabulous value, which had lain for many years, and which were pledged anew every year, that had glittered, nevertheless, on the arms and necks of their owners at every Imperial ball and on every State occasion, when they were hired from the Imperial pawnbroker for the night. Here, too, were evidences of the more real distress to which persons of rank had been reduced—one piece of lace after the other, the last cashmere shawl, or a pocket-handkerchief embroidered with a coronet, of such fine material that it was still possible to raise 3*fr.*, the lowest figure allowed, upon it; gentlemen's gold-headed canes, even ordinary riding-whips, and no fewer than 2000 opera-glasses. Here was an umbrella, the pawn-ticket of which had been renewed every year since 1812, and a silk dress, the owner of which for the last twenty-eight years had been unable to redeem it, but had regularly raised the portion of her annual income which it represented. Here were unwritten romances staring at one from the eyes of pawned pictures, and dreadful family secrets locked up in jewel-boxes. This quarter of the establishment was what might be called the Faubourg St. Germain of the Mont de Piété. When we went into the Belleville quarter the objects were very different. No fewer than 2300 poor wretches had pawned their mattresses, and starving seamstresses had pawned 1500 pairs of scissors. Spades, shovels, teapots without end. How many necessities to existence were stored away in these cruel galleries! How different the story they told from those of the fashionable deposits below! Not much of the romantic or the mysterious here; very little left to the imagination; the gaunt specter frowning on us from every loaded shelf—starvation! And so the bright idea struck my companion that a very practical distribution of British charity might be made which would deprive the owners of these tools of the excuse for idleness that the implements of their trades were in pawn, and enable those who were industrious and deserving to earn their own bread, while it would afford a means of discovering the idle and following the conduct of those who might try to take advantage of the privilege only in order to abuse it. This view was thoroughly acquiesced in by Colonel Stuart Wortley and Mr. Moore, who could not have brought their laborious duties to a more desirable conclusion than by inaugurating this scheme."

LONDON POLICE COURTS.

BEHAVING LIKE A PHILOSOPHER.—At the Mansion House, on Monday, Samuel Holland, 19, and John William Hiles, 21, described as costermongers, were charged before the Lord Mayor with robbery under the following circumstances:—Mr. Winter, a builder and decorator, said that he was in Billingsgate Market on Saturday afternoon, and saw a crowd of persons surrounding the prosecutor, a fishmonger, named Melbourne, carrying on business at Dalston. The prisoners were close behind him, and he observed Holland take some money out of his coat pocket and hand it to Hiles. They then went away, and separated. Witness followed Hiles, who in a short time came back to the same place. Witness asked the prosecutor if he had lost any money. He said he had, and witness then pointed out Hiles as the man who had it, and went to the top of the market for a policeman, but when he returned the man was gone. At the suggestion of the constable they went to Fisher's Coffee-house, near the market, and there witness pointed out both the prisoners, who were taken into custody. Witness then went to Dalston for the prosecutor, and he came and identified Holland. Alfred Melbourne, the prosecutor, stated that on Saturday afternoon he was buying some fish. He had 5*s.* 8*d.* in coppers in the outside pocket of a pea-jacket. The prisoner Holland and a number of roughs were surrounding him. He felt the prisoner taking the money from his pocket, and nodded to him. He thought it better to lose the money than get a

kicking and stand a chance of losing a box of had-docks he had. The Lord Mayor: "You knew the consequences?"—Prosecutor: "Yes; I knew what was going on; he took it out in three lots, and I felt the weight decreasing; it was all taken out but 1*s.* 4*d.*" The Lord Mayor: "I think you behaved like a philosopher." Holland: "At the station he said that he had lost 3*s.* 4*d.*; now he makes it 4*s.* 4*d.*" The Lord Mayor (to prisoner): "Well, which was it?"—Prisoner: "I don't know." Some further evidence having been given, the prisoners were sentenced to a month's hard labour each.

EAGER TO BE EDUCATED.—At Marylebone, on Monday, Thomas Bracey, seventeen, dressed in a footman's livery, was charged with begging of Mrs. Neate, 53, Belsize Park, St. John's-wood. The prosecutrix stated that, about a month ago, the prisoner called at her house, and said that he was servant to Lady O'Kelly, of Harley-street; that he wished to learn to read and write, but, as his mistress was out of town, he would not get his wages for a month, and he therefore asked for a spelling-book. The prosecutrix asked for the prisoner's address, and promised that she would send him some books, if his story turned out to be true. He then left, but returned to say that a lady in the neighbourhood, who had previously shown him some kindness, had given him a shilling to enable him to go to a night school, and he should therefore not require the spelling-book. The prosecutrix, however, caused inquiries to be made, and ascertained that the lady he named had on two occasions given him money; but upon going to the address given by the prisoner, it was found that, instead of Lady O'Kelly, a Mrs. Kelly lived at the house, and that she had been frequently annoyed by inquiries respecting the prisoner, who had never been in her service. The prosecutrix met the prisoner by chance in Regent-street, on Monday morning, and taxed him with the falsehoods he had told her. He attempted to explain away the facts, and offered to show her the house he had named. After going some little distance with the prisoner, she met a constable, and by his advice gave the prisoner into custody. In answer to the magistrate, the prisoner said he had been out of work for six months, and bought a livery at second hand because it looked respectable. Mr. D'Eyncourt sentenced him to be imprisoned for one month, with hard labour.

THE OXFORD-STREET BURGLARS.—Henry Dunn, Amelia Dunn, William Kitchen, and Ellen Kitchen were brought before Mr. Tyrwhitt, at Marlborough-street, on Monday, for final examination, charged with being concerned in burglary, entering the premises of Mr. Force, milliner, 79, Oxford-street, and stealing ribbons, lace, silk jackets, and other property, value £200. The evidence taken last week was read over. Detective Shives said one of the skeleton-keys found in Dunn's room fitted the lock of the shutter-box, by forcing which the house was entered. Mr. Tyrwhitt committed all the prisoners for trial. A message was sent from the House of Detention to Barnes, the gaoler of the court, cautioning him to look strictly after Dunn, who had made an attempt to escape from the prison by working out one of the gratings.

THIEVES NEATLY BAULKED.—At Guildhall, on Tuesday, Thomas Hall, who described himself as a commission agent, and Thomas Gibson, who said he was a ship's steward, but both of whom refused to give their addresses, were charged before Sir William Rose with stealing in the warehouse 35, King William-street, Snow-hill, a bag, containing £20 in silver, and two cash-boxes—one containing £11 10*s.* 5*d.* in money, and the other a bill of exchange for £1200 and two cheques, one for £46 7*s.* 2*d.* and the other for £93 6*s.* 5*d.*, the property of Messrs. Lovell and Christmas, provision merchants. John Payne said that he was clerk to the prosecutors, and the prisoners were strangers to him. About twelve o'clock on Monday Hall called on him and inquired the price of eggs. He told him he could not say, as the market was fixed on Monday, and the price would be regulated on that day, and they might be down 1*s.* per hundred. He had therefore, better call the next day. He went away, but returned about two o'clock, while witness was in the inner counting-house, at the end of the warehouse, alone, and wanted to know whether he could not then give him the price of the eggs; and witness told him that he could not. The prisoner became very pressing to have the price fixed; and, while talking to him, came into the inner office and up to witness's desk. He then asked Hall if he wanted to buy or to send in goods, and he replied that he wanted to make a large purchase. Hall then asked the price of rabbits, and he told him they were scarce. He then asked witness to put down on paper what he thought would be the proper price. At that moment he noticed Gibson, who had entered unperceived, stealthily leaving the front counting-house, with an overcoat over his arm, and making for the door. Witness immediately rushed to the front, locked the door, took out the key, and put it into his pocket. While he was doing that he noticed that Gibson had something under his overcoat, which he saw was a cash-box. He told him to drop the cash-box. Gibson walked a few paces towards the back of the shop, and put the two cash-boxes, the bag of money, and a bunch of keys on the ground. Witness picked them up and put them into the private passage. He then called to Mr. Lovell and Mr. Christmas, who were dining up stairs, and they came down. In the mean time, Hall went to the front door and tried to open it, but could not. Messrs. Lovell and Christmas came down stairs and found the prisoners at the door. They asked witness what was the matter, and he said, in the prisoners' hearing, that they were going to walk off with the cash-boxes. Mr. Christmas went for an officer, and they were given into custody. The cash-boxes and bag of money were in a cupboard in the front counting-house, the door of which was locked, but the key left in it. The prisoners were remanded for inquiries. Mr. Christmas applied for the cash-boxes and cheques to be given up to him, the latter for preservation. Sir William Rose assented, and, in addition, ordered the bills of exchange and money to be given up. He congratulated Mr. Christmas on having such a ser-

vant as the witness. Mr. Christmas said they quite appreciated the value of his services, and he should be well rewarded for what he had done.

DARING ROBBERY.—A sailor named Green was charged on Tuesday, at Worship-street, with having been concerned with others in a well-concocted scheme of robbery, cleverly carried out. On Saturday morning last three men went into the John Bull public-house, Old Ford. They entered at the same moment, but acted as though they were unknown to each other, by going into separate compartments of the bar. They called for drink one after the other, and then one asked for bread and cheese. While the landlady left the bar to obtain it one of them lifted the counter-flap, entered the bar, and from a cupboard therein, carried off a cash-box containing £1600 worth of money and valuables. On the landlady returning she found them all gone, and then discovered the robbery. The prisoner was identified as one of the men, and the further hearing was adjourned.

WINE, MIGHTY WINE.—At the Thames Police Court, on Tuesday, John Sutcliffe, described as "a portly, well-dressed old gentleman," contractor, of 6, Cobden's-cottages, Dagenham, was charged with being drunk and incapable. A policeman saw him in the East India Dock-road, at two o'clock on Monday afternoon, holding on to a house, and bawling out, "Wine, mighty wine! many comforts I spy." The prisoner said he was very sorry. It was quite an accident that he reached the station-house. Mr. Lushington said, "It is very disgraceful. You are found at an early period of the day drunk and incapable. It is setting a very bad example. You are bordering upon threescore and ten, and ought to know better. You were locked up several hours before you procured bail, and I shall now discharge you."

THE MODERN DICK TURPIN.—Horace Wright, who describes himself as a medical student, and was in 1869 sentenced to nine months' imprisonment for committing a highway robbery in the traditional "Dick Turpin" fashion from the wife of a Cambridgeshire magistrate, was, last week, apprehended at Castle Camps, Cambridgeshire, on a charge of stealing £30 in bank notes, the property of his brother-in-law, Mr. Samuel Cropper, of Cheapside, London. The prisoner had taken lodgings at a labourer's cottage in the village, and when taken into custody denied that he was Horace Wright, but afterwards admitted the felony. He was released from gaol last September. Wright was charged with the robbery of Mr. Cropper at the Mansion House Police Court on Tuesday. Sergeant Bull deposed that, on Feb. 22, the prosecutor, Mr. Cropper, gave information of the robbery to the police, and that on Monday he (witness) went to Cambridge, and found the prisoner in custody of the Chief Constable. He told him he was a detective officer, and that he would be charged with stealing two Bank-of-England notes for £20 and £10, belonging to Mr. Cropper. The prisoner replied that that was correct, and he was very sorry for what he had done. He added, "If I had £10,000 I would give all of it to him; he was exceedingly kind and good to me, and I have been very ungrateful. When I see a horse with a saddle on, I must be there if I have got money. I think I am mad." Upon him one halfpenny was found. The Lord Mayor, owing to the unavoidable absence of the prosecutor, remanded the prisoner for a week.

TRUANT HUSBANDS.—The Birmingham Board of Guardians, having dealt with the question of vagrancy so effectually that the offence is almost stamped out of the borough, are now directing their attention to another branch of the subject, and treating it with results which promise to be equally successful. During the past three months an officer has been specially engaged in attending to cases of family desertion and making inquiries after the truant husbands who have left their wives and children chargeable to the union. His exertions have been satisfactory, far beyond the expectations formed by the guardians. During the quarter sixty-one inmates have been removed from the workhouse in consequence of the absconding fathers and husbands having been captured and punished, and fifteen others will very shortly leave the house from the same cause. The guardians appear to be unanimously of opinion that the imprisonment which can now be inflicted is very inadequate for the offence of family desertion. They think such an alteration of the law is required as will enable the magistrates not to inflict imprisonment merely, but also to make an order for the repayment by instalments of the whole or a portion of the costs incurred by the parish in maintaining the deserted family; such order to be only made when there is reasonable ground for believing the ordinary earnings of the defendant warrant it.

HABITUAL CRIMINALS.—A meeting of the Social Science Association was held at their Rooms in the Adelphi, on Tuesday morning, to discuss the subject of the operation of the Habitual Criminals Act of 1869. The Right Hon. Stephen Cave, M.P., presided over the meeting, which was numerously attended. Among those present were:—Sir M. Hicks Beach, M.P.; Sir Bartle Frere; Mr. J. Bonham Carter, M.P.; Mr. S. S. Dickinson, M.P.; Mr. R. N. Fowler, M.P.; Mr. Kennaway,

M.P.; Colonel Fraser, Lieutenant-Colonel Colvill, Mr. T. B. L. Baker, &c. Sir Walter Crofton read a paper giving the history of the introduction of supervision into England, illustrating the tardiness of its adoption and the very great care which was required in its application. He called attention to the very serious step which had been taken in the Habitual Criminals Act by repealing the monthly reporting of the license-holder, and pointed out that the eighth clause of the Habitual Criminals Act was now stultified in its action, that it entailed several disabilities on persons defined as habitual criminals, as a consequence of being placed under police supervision, but failed to take the necessary steps to secure knowledge of their residence. Under the present arrangements it was impossible for the supervision to be exercised without very considerable espionage; and even then the procedure must be most incomplete and unsatisfactory, whereas by requiring the supervised to report their arrival and departure from localities (under penalties in default) a systematic procedure could be adopted, without having recourse to constant inquiries to attain the object. He considered the State should undertake the management of all prisons for habitual criminals; that the procedure under a system of labour need not be expensive; that this opinion was supported by the highest authority on the subject—viz., the Prison Discipline Committee of 1850, which, in accordance with some of the most experienced evidence given before it, was in favour of district prisons under State management for the longer-sentenced prisoners in the county and borough gaols—i.e., for the same class as habitual criminals; and he recommended that the 16th clause of the Habitual Criminals Act should be made compulsory, so that the children under fourteen years of any woman defined as an habitual criminal should be sent to industrial schools, when such children shall at the time of the conviction be under her care and control, and satisfactory proof cannot be afforded that they will also be under proper management. He contended that it was the imperative duty of the State to cut off thus a supply which so obviously recruited our criminal ranks.

THE LONDON GAZETTE.

FRIDAY, MARCH 10.
BANKRUPTCY ANNULLED.—W. B. SMITH, Huddersfield—S. J. WELD, Piccadilly.
BANKRUPT.—J. MLEOWNAN, Fenchurch-street canvas factor—W. BANHAM, Parleigh, carpenter—T. W. CREES, Birmingham, journeyman metal chaser—W. H. DAINY, Birmingham, draper—W. DAVEY, Bognor, grocer—W. R. GHEAT, Stanton, farmer—A. J. MEGALFE, Sanderland and Spennymoor, grocer—E. F. MOSES, Swansea, clothier—J. and J. WILKINSON, Sheffield, builders.
SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.—J. CAMPBELL, Glasgow, commission and seed merchant—G. A. BERRY, Aberdeen, jeweller.

TUESDAY, MARCH 14.
BANKRUPT.—T. BROMLEY, St. James's-square, late lieutenant in the Indian Army—F. G. BREL, Asylum-road, Peckham, builder—F. M. WALSH, Spa, Belgium—W. R. BETT, Quadding, Lincolnshire, grocer—J. BIRD, jun., Davenport, Northamptonshire, innkeeper—J. GARLICK, Liverpool, licensed victualler—J. GEORGE, Cardiff, draper—J. INGRAM, Penzance, Cornwall, beer-seller—T. H. KAYE, Birky, near Huddersfield—W. KENDALL, Walsall, tobaccoist—E. MUFF, Leeds, oil merchant—S. OLNEY, Olney, Hertfordshire, baker—A. ROBERTS, Bristol, blanket manufacturer—F. H. SAVAGE, Southampton, innkeeper—W. WILKINS, Sutton Coldfield, Warwickshire, chandler—W. WOODRUFF, Mexborough, Yorkshire, grocer.
SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.—T. DARLING, jun., Aberdeen, commission merchant—H. RENTON, Edinburgh, silk mercer—A. MACKAY, Saltcoats, spirit-dealer.

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Wanderer	4 4 0	Belgravia	7 15 0
Shakespeare	4 4 0	Howe (Ellis, jun.)	8 0 0
Princess of Wales	4 4 0	Willcox and Gibbs	8 0 0
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